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THIRD EDITION.

A COMPLETE HISTORY

OF

# The Raber Murder,

CONTAINING A FULL AND ACCURATE  
ACCOUNT OF THE TRIAL OF  
THE PRISONERS, THEIR

Confessions and Statements,  
EXECUTIONS, &c.

ILLUSTRATED WITH

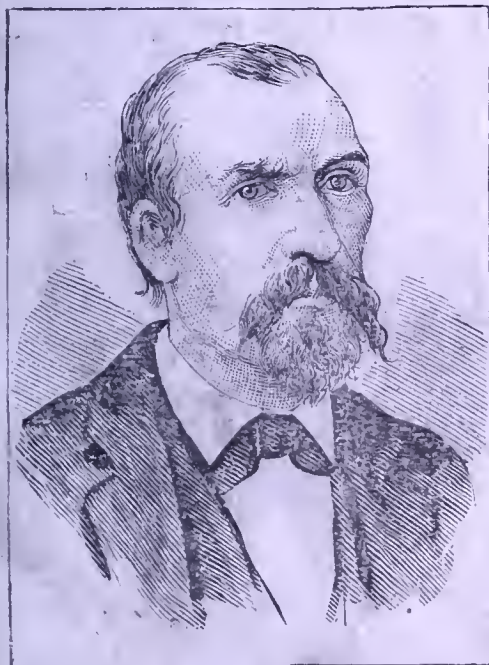
**SIX PORTRAITS.**

AND

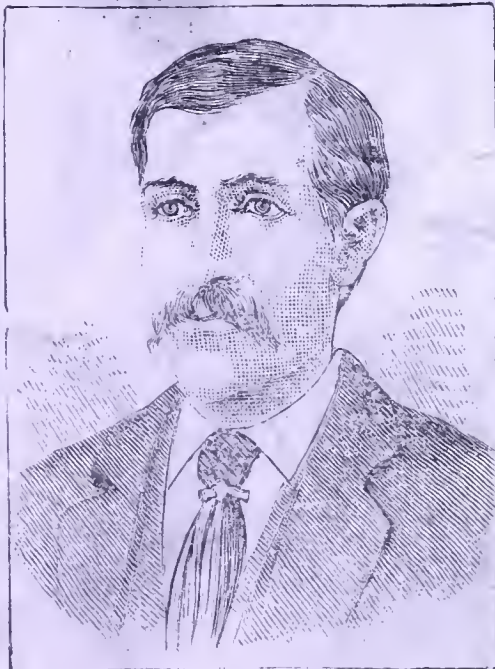
The Scene of the Murder.



HENRY F. WISE, THE "SQUEALER."



ISRAEL BRANDT.



JOSIAH HUMMEL.

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# THE RABER MURDER,

CONTAINING A DETAILED AND ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF  
THE MURDER OF JOSEPH RABER, BY DROWNING  
IN INDIANTOWN CREEK, UNION TOWNSHIP,  
LEBANON CO., PA., ON THE 7TH OF DE-  
CEMBER, 1878, FOR THE

INSURANCE MONEY UPON HIS LIFE,

WITH

ILLUSTRATIONS

AND RESULTS OF THE

**Trial and Conviction**

OF

SIX MEN FOR THE CRIME;

ALSO,

Full History of their Lives and Confessions.

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THIRD EDITION.

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LEBANON, PA.:  
C. M. BOWMAN, PUBLISHER,  
1880.

## INTRODUCTORY.

### *Full History of the Lives of the Six Men Convicted of the Murder of Old Joseph Raber.*

From the earliest ages of the world, when a piece of raw hide bearing the signet of the ruler was the authorized currency of the realm till the present, when elegant designs in gold and silver are the recognized circulating medium, the love of wealth has ever been a ruling passion with the vast majority of mankind. And the developments in this case unveil no new phase of human nature as far as the love of gain is concerned. The taking of human life for lucre is to be regretted. It is a matter of almost daily occurrence, the offender is punished, and the act passes into oblivion; but in this particular case the peculiar surroundings, wild tract of country where the deed was committed, the large number of persons implicated in the tragedy, the singular mode of speculating at and around the scene of the murder, all combine to invest this celebrated case with an amount of interest that no crime has ever commanded in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In presenting the reader with a sketch of the lives of these men we will commence by stating that we have but barren ground to work upon, from the fact that the lot of these men, from childhood, has been cast amongst the humble of this world. Possessed of but limited education, they have all been what might be classed "horny-handed sons of toil," complying in this respect with the supreme edict that we should earn our bread by the sweat of our brow. But the demon of covetousness that tempted Adam in the garden we presume held out the same glittering possibilities to these men, who expected from the sudden acquisition of wealth to luxuriate in the things of the flesh, forgetting the proverb that contentment is better than wealth.

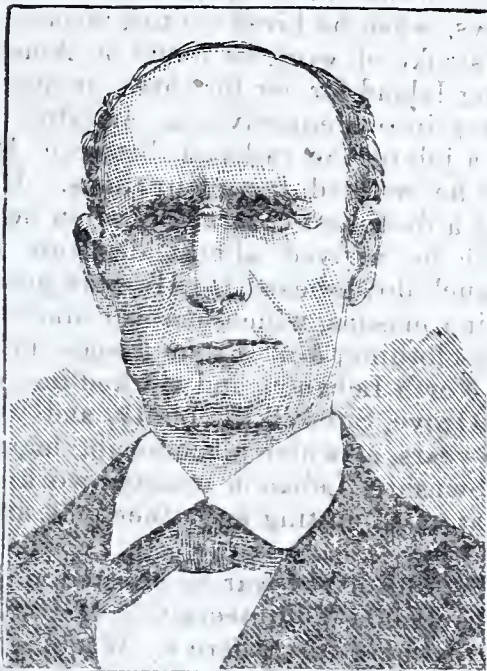
The reader will please bear in mind that the history of these men is presented as it came from their own lips, and, though far from possessing the highly spiced flavor of a romance, will no doubt be read with interest by the public as being connected with a tragedy that has excited universal horror throughout the land.

October, 1879.



CHARLES DREWS.

*A Soldier on Two Continents, Choir Singer in the Fatherland, a Butcher, and a Man of Note generally.*



CHARLES DREWS, EXECUTED NOVEMBER 14.

The subject of this sketch was born in 1820 in Schleswig-Holstein, in Germany. His father was a butcher by trade, and not blessed with a superabundance of the things of this world. He went to school at the early age of six years, and continued until sixteen years old. From the age of twelve he has always been a great lover of reading any and every kind of literature, and in the winter evenings his German friends used to gather round the humble home, furnish their own lights, and listen to the youth read stories and history away into the small hours. At the age of 16 years he possessed so good an ear for music and so fine a voice that he was appointed to lead the choir in the church to which he belonged, (Lutheran.) This business he followed up for four years. His father, however, concluding it was taking up too much of his time, made him cancel his connection with the choir and help him steadily at his trade of butchering.

His life is without any incident worthy of note from this time until the breaking out of war on the continent of Europe, in 1848, when he enlisted in the German army, remaining two years, and being in active service in the campaign against the Danes.

Returning from the war he resumed his old trade of butchering, but, growing discontented, he made up his mind to try his fortune in the New World, and sailed from Hamburg for New York, arriving at the latter port on the 4th of May, 1852. He stopped in New York about five days, when he hired out to a farmer on Long Island, this being the first stroke of work he found on American soil. He worked for the Long Island farmer for three months, then traveled through New Jersey into Pennsylvania, arriving at Harrisburg. There he obtained a job on the railroad between Harrisburg and Middletown, where he worked forty-four days. He was cheated out of his wages by a dishonest contractor, when he struck out for Lebanon, Pa., where he arrived almost destitute of clothing or money, and very much down-hearted. He soon got a job at house building and assisting masons, which enabled him to purchase some necessities, such as clothing, &c. From thence he went to Coleman's Furnace, in North Lebanon, and worked one year there. He then went to Pine Grove, Schuylkill county, and worked at a furnace there for five years, at which place he got married and moved to East Hanover township, Lebanon county, working then principally for farmers, at wood cutting and other jobs, and making a fair, honest living.

At the breaking out of the war he enlisted at Lebanon in the Ninety-Third Pennsylvania Volunteers, Col. McCarter commanding. He went with the regiment from there to Washington, and stopped a month or two at Georgetown, D. C. The first active service he saw in the United States was at Williamsburg, Va., then at Fair Oaks, then the Seven Days fight between Fair Oaks and Harrison's Landing, and many battles of lesser note. He was made color bearer of the regiment in 1862, bore the standard of freedom through the entire war, had it shot out of his hands on many occasions, but never received a scratch himself.

He was mustered out of service at Harrisburg in July, 1865, as his discharge papers will show. A brother of Wise, of Raber notoriety, was in the same company with him. He says there are many of his army acquaintances living around Lebanon, and they frequently drop in to cheer him with a word of sympathy, and express their regrets that so brave a soldier should be in such a precarious condition.

He has known Frank Stichler since childhood, got acquainted with Brandt seven or eight years ago, at Joseph's Springs, by occupying a house next to his; was first acquainted with Hummel, Wise

and Zechman in the fall of 1878, and knew Joseph Kaber for a number of years.

He has been married once. His wife is living, and they have had a family of eleven children, three of whom are dead, the oldest being twenty-three years of age, and the youngest one and a half years. He was never arrested previous to this, either in Germany or America. In personal appearance he is tall and well knit, and possesses a remarkably fine constitution. His face has a solemn and profound expression, denoting latent powers of mind. His head is almost entirely bald, with the exception of a fringe of light hair. His face is close shaven, and the expression and general contour of his countenance is rather prepossessing, and would make a favorable impression on the beholder. He weighs about 180 pounds, and, although 59 years of age, says he feels as young, owing to his perfect health, as he did at the age of twenty.

He has been a staunch supporter of the Republican party since exercising the right of franchise on American soil.

He is perfectly resigned to his fate, and views matters with the same stoical coolness that he has ever displayed since first arraigned for the crime.

He was sentenced to be hung on the 14th of November, 1879, by Judge Henderson, at the August term of court.

## HENRY F. WISE.



HENRY F. WISE, THE "SQUEALER."



This man was born at Monroe Valley, Lebanon county, Pa., on the 4th of June, 1845. As far as he can discover, his parents were of American origin. His father moved to Fishing Creek Valley when he was ten years of age, which is distant about six miles from the scene of the tragedy. He had not much chance to go to school, being compelled to assist his father in supporting the family. At the age of fourteen years his brother-in-law and he went to Gold Mine Gap, in the winter, to cut wood. He was obliged to handle the ax and do a man's work generally before he was able to. His father at this time was a contractor for tie making on the Dauphin and Susquehanna Railroad, where he worked for him, and he often said that his son Henry could score more ties in one day than any man he had.

At the age of seventeen years he went to the Rausch Creek coal mines to work, and labored there for different men. He had a recommendation from John Bonawitz and Philip Brenzel for being the most industrious man in their employ. This was about fifteen miles from home. He first sought religion at this time, and kept in the narrow path for about seven months, when he was seduced by the world again, and felt ashamed whenever he met a Christian brother. During the summer he worked in the mines and in winter cut sills or ties. He was married in his nineteenth year, and was so much attached to home he could never be absent one night without feelings of great anxiety. When married about six or seven years he and his wife sought religion again, and kept faithful about eighteen months. He was baptized by Rev. J. S. Hay, in Rausch Gap, Cold Spring township, Lebanon county, Pa. At this time he was grossly insulted, and Satan getting the upper hand of him, he got angry and ceased praying, because he was afraid he was mocking the Lord. He worked at Brookside, in the mines, in all about five or six years, in summer when the work was good. He then moved to Dauphin county, Pa., near Rockville, where he lived about fourteen months and worked at the business of tie making, getting out about 4,000 for John Turner and others, when he finished his contract and moved back to Fishing Creek Valley. He then went to work in the mines and moved to Sudbury's house. At this time he and his wife determined to make one more effort to overcome the devil, and succeeded in getting religion again, and followed the precepts of the Lord for two or three years; but, being compelled to work on Sunday, and pressed by numerous debts, a reproving conscience admonished him that under the circumstances he could not apply himself faithfully to his religious duties, and he backslided from following the narrow path of righteousness.

Wise relates many incidents of his mining experience and hair breadth escapes from death, and how he was an instrument in the hands of God of saving several human lives. Once when working in the mines at Lincoln with William Fake, he heard a slight noise,



and shouted to Fake to get out of the way, which he did, when a terrible crash was heard and a mass of slate and rock weighing from three to five tons came crashing down in the exact spot where Fake had been standing. On another occasion, when working in Brookside mines with John H. Miller, he saved him from a similar catastrophe. He also claims to have saved Amos Fake's life under like circumstances.

When working with Curin Knapp at the same place, (Brookside,) a large piece of coal fell on his (Knapp's) back, causing his death in a few hours. This was a sad blow to Wise, as he loved this young man very much, and collected over sixty dollars to give him a decent funeral, tombstone, &c. He says the mining boss, William Elliott, exculpated him from all blame in the matter, stating publicly that his (Wise's) department was in perfect order, and the accident was one liable to occur under the most careful management.

One year ago last spring his wife and himself made up their minds to go West, live in a more moral atmosphere and again seek the path of the righteous, but being unable to sell his property was diverted from his purpose. When he found he could not go West, his wife persuaded him not to go to work in the mines any more, having heard from others of the great danger he had already incurred, and advised him to seek some less dangerous method of earning a livelihood. At this time, Wise claims, several parties came to him and explained how easily he could make money without incurring any risk and but small outlay, picturing to his mind golden visions of wealth, telling him if he went West under present circumstances, after selling his little property, he would not have more than a couple of hundred dollars left, whereas if he embarked in this to him new mode of speculation he could go West in a short time with his pockets full of money, and could take a large farm and in a few years become wealthy. His brother William works in the mines, and his other brother, Emanuel, works in the saw-mills, New Rockville, Dauphin county.

When in jail, before the April term of court, Wise was strongly impressed with the load of sin he was carrying, and, like *Banyan in Pilgrim's Progress*, thought he would turn over a new leaf and start afresh on his hard journey through *Vanity Fair*, past *Doubting Castle*, through the *Slough of Despond*, onward towards *Mount Zion*, on which journey he claims to be still proceeding, and says in this fifth and last attempt to seek the true religion he has been entirely successful. His conduct in jail has been good, and he passes the greater part of his time praying and singing.

His personal appearance is rather prepossessing, bearing a slight resemblance to Schuyler Colfax, ex Vice President. His features are regular, forehead well developed and high, dark hair and blue eyes, front teeth wanting, which mars his appearance. His expres-

sion is mild and rather benevolent, appearing to wear a continual smile. He weighs, when attending to his ordinary duties outside, about 180 pounds, but since his incarceration he has fallen away greatly, tipping the scale now at 160 pounds. He measures about 5 feet 8 inches in height is well built and stocky in appearance.

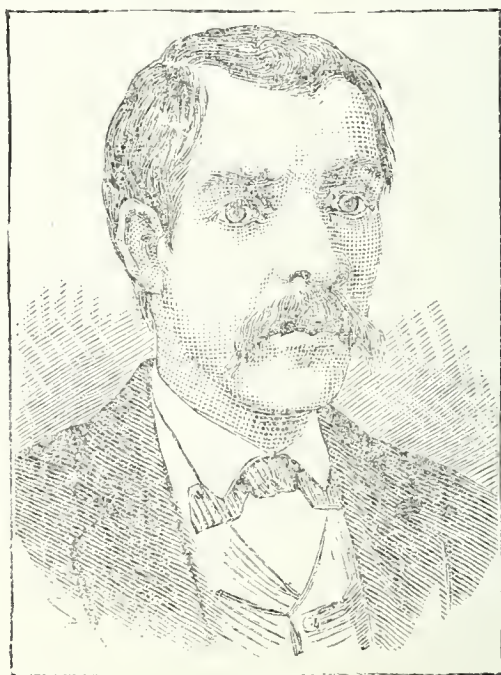
He is the only one of the prisoners who does not use tobacco, and has never been drunk in his lifetime. He was once married, his wife is living, and has a family of seven children, the youngest being born the Sunday previous to his arrest. In politics he has been identified with the Democratic party.

He has been acquainted with Zechman, Hummel and Drews since boyhood, with Brandt about ten years, and with Frank Stichler two years. Knew old Joseph Raber only a short time previous to his death.

Wise was not sentenced to death with Drews, Stichler, Brandt and Hummel, as he is held over in the interests of justice.

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## GEORGE ZECHMAN



GEORGE ZECHMAN, ACQUITTED.

This young man was born in Berks county on the 15th day of August, 1849, his forefathers being of German origin many years back. His parents moved to Fishing Creek Valley when he was quite small. His father worked principally at farming and making

post fences. He was sent to school when eight years of age, and continued going on and off until seventeen years old, when he left school and went boating on the Susquehanna with Daniel Windlebach, who was known throughout that region as a good, honest, hard working man. After quitting the boating business he went to work in the coal mines at Lower Auberry, Schuylkill county, his boss' name being Daniel Roe. He worked there until they stopped taking out coal, when he started for Upper Rausch Creek and worked in the mines there under Neddy Moore, and remained there until he completed his contract. Then he started to work at Williamstown, Dauphin county, under Bill Thomas, foreman, where he remained a couple of years. The next place was Upper Auberry, where he worked in the coal mines for some years. Went to work then at Shaffer's, in Schuylkill county, where he was seized with a fit of sickness. When he got well he started back to Upper Auberry, where he worked until his partner got killed, when he gave up working in the mines and engaged in teaming in the Fishing Creek Valley.

Zechman was married when in his twenty-second year; his wife is living and has a family of six children, the oldest about eight years old. He has one brother and nine sisters living, the sisters being all married. He has evidently descended from long-lived ancestry, as his grand-father and grand-mother and father and mother are still alive. He has been acquainted with Josiah Hummel for ten years, Wise he has known since he (Zechman) was a small boy, and knew Brandt for two years. He spoke to Stichler last summer for the first time, and he did not know Drews until he met him in jail. He was not intimately acquainted with any of these men except Wise and Hummel. He was never arrested previous to this and was never inside the walls of a jail before. He used to attend the Lutheran church with his wife and family, also the Sunday school, where he taught a class. Rev. Henry Geisz was his pastor at Fishing Creek Valley, and he always looked upon him (Geisz) as a man of God. He claims to have always got along peaceably with his neighbors and had no enemies that he is aware of. He never engaged in any quarrel except in self defense, which fact can be vouched for by his neighbors. He is very tired with his long confinement and is looking forward with great hope to the time when he can join his wife and family once more.

Zechman is not addicted to the use of strong drink to excess, though occasionally taking a glass for his stomach's sake. He is a great lover of the weed, and is seldom to be found without a pipe of tobacco or a chew. At the writing of this Zechman possesses a little home in his own right and has always been somewhat prosperous in a small way.

When a single man the subject of our sketch was very much given to attending dancing parties, and relates many amusing incidents of his experience when tripping the light fantastic toe.

He has always voted the Republican ticket since old enough to exer-



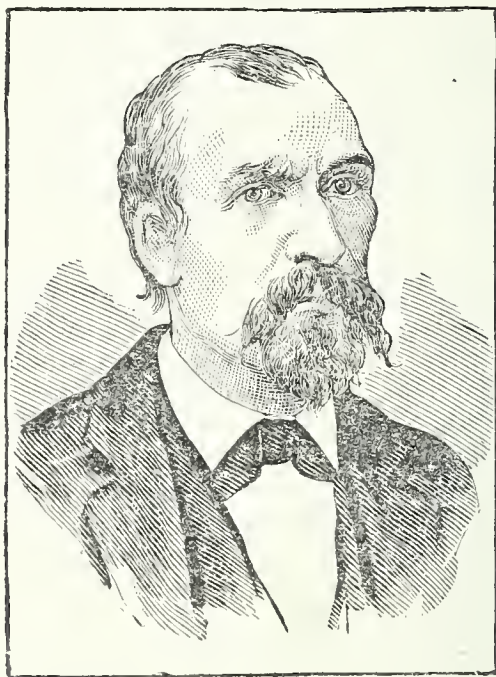
cise the privileges of a citizen.

In personal appearance the man is what may be called rather firm looking, with piercing blue eyes, black hair and mustache, regular features, compactly built, measuring about 5 feet 7 inches, and weighing about 160 pounds. He has not fallen away in flesh since his incarceration, and seems hopeful for the future.

George Zechman was granted a new trial by Judge Henderson at the August term of court.

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## ISRAEL BRANDT.



ISRAEL BRANDT,

Israel Brandt was born in North Lebanon township, Lebanon county, Pa., on the 27th of May, 1834. His father first saw the light of day at the same place, and is still living, as is his mother. His father had a small tract of land, which he worked, and also did considerable business at house carpentering, and was always looked upon by the neighbors as a handy man, who could turn in and work at almost anything. He was also appointed steward at the almshouse, which position he occupied for six years. The subject of this sketch, as the sequel will show, did not possess the stability of his paternal relation, but was possessed of a restless disposition, desire for change, &c,

Young Israel went to school at the age of eight years, continuing until he was fifteen years old, when his father sent him to a tailor to learn his trade, where he remained till his eighteenth year. He then moved to South Lebanon township, still engaged in the meritorious occupation of taking the measure of the community and furnishing suitable apparel to

the public at large. Here he remained for five years, when, sighing for a change, he packed his gripsack and wended his way toward the Hoosier State, arriving eventually in Madison county, Indiana. At this place, it seems, he got tired of playing the ninth part of a man, and started to work on a farm, continuing to gather in the fruits of the earth for a few years. Again the demon of discontent wrestled with him, and he started back for the old hunting grounds of North Lebanon township, where he remained two years, working at his trade. This brings the reader to the year 1857, at which time he got married to the wife of his choice, when he moved to Myerstown and commenced keeping house.

At this time he seemed to be inspired with military ardor, and got himself enrolled in the Myerstown Dragoons, under Captain Donges. Through Brandt's soldierly qualities and usefulness generally, he was elected corporal of the squad, which title he still retains. He gives many glowing descriptions of this crack company, their fine military bearing, and grand and imposing presence, and speaks in high terms of their military band, whose sweet chords of music were heard on all prominent and special occasions, on such holidays as the Fourth of July, 22d of February, etc. When the presence of this fine body of stalwart warriors was required, the populace would flock around in countless numbers, admire the prancing steeds and gaudy uniforms of the dauntless heroes, who were ready at the first note of alarm to charge to the cannon's mouth, or, like the "six hundred at Balaklava," were only waiting for the sound of the bugle to dash on the enemy and conquer or die. Brandt also mentions how the ladies were willing to forfeit their next buggy ride for a smile from this heroic company of "curled darlings;" but, alas, how weak are the resolutions of the sons of Adam! How much we are inclined to favor the Falstaffian doctrine, and pile up our courage to the sticking point when danger is afar off, but when the tug of war actually comes our wonted bravery is apt to ooze out at our finger ends! Such, kind reader, was the sad fate of these Myerstown invincibles, for when the first gun thundered on Fort Sumter, and the small cloud of war loomed up in the bloody horizon, this crack company of light dragoons assembled in their quarters and voted by a large majority to *stay at home*. Corporal Brandt voted for war, and had his views prevailed might have covered himself with glory and been numbered amongst the heroes of the great rebellion.

After the commencement of the war Brandt moved to Lebanon and kept the Washington House for two years, without any incident of note. He then sold out his hotel business and moved to Stephenson county, Illinois, where he worked on a farm. At this time, while tending a threshing machine, he lost his left arm. He remained in Illinois eighteen months, when he journeyed to Iowa, and remained a short time looking around for some business suited to his maimed condition. Being unsuccessful, however, he came back to Lebanon and stayed three weeks with his father. He then moved to Cold Spring township and went into business, keeping the Cold Spring Hotel, and remained there two years, when his wife died of consumption, in 1867, by whom he had two children. Brandt relates a most extraordinary story. About the time his wife was sick some person recommended that she should eat *rattlesnakes* cooked in some peculiar way and caught in a certain manner. So he started out

with a forked stick and finally caught two of the snakes, cut off their heads, took the fat off, and cooked them; but when ready his wife refused to touch them except he eat some first, which he did, and says they are not bad eating. His wife also eat some, but whether it helped her consumption is a matter of conjecture. At all events, it is a new cure for the medical faculty to investigate.

Brandt relates some amusing anecdotes of his hotel experience. At Cold Spring, on one occasion, a colored man, a Lard case and terror of the place generally, came to his house late one night demanding liquor from his barkeeper, which the man refused when the colored man whipped out a butcher knife, swearing by all the gods he would make sausage meat of him in a short time. The barkeeper weakened and ran up stairs to call Brandt, who was in bed asleep. Acquainting him with the terrible state of affairs down stairs, asking what could be done to scare off the enemy, Brandt replied by jumping out of bed, rushing down stairs, and collaring the negro, who was in the act of helping himself to the rum cask. He wrested the knife from him and threw him out of the house, and being much enraged at being disturbed from his slumber kicked the gentleman of color so vigorously for over two hundred yards that he caused the darkey to tumble a complete summersault in the air *six times*, and the man said afterwards he saw more stars while traveling that two hundred yards than he ever saw in the heavens.

At this time he took a great interest in the canine species, having as many as seven dogs on hand at one time of all descriptions, and any person who had a valuable terrier or Newfoundland, could always (if so disposed) find a customer in Israel Brandt, who was always quite a dog fancier.

The next place that Brandt turns up is at East Hanover township, where he again enters the hotel business. This time he is enacting the role of landlord at the Half-Way House. At this place he tied the conjugal knot for the second time, which occurred in 1868. He kept hotel at this place for some years, during which time his career has been void of any incident of note otherwise than that of the every day routine of a country tavern keeper. He still retained his old penchant for the canines, and was seldom without some remarkable description of dog. He also preserved his fondness for hunting, and when the season was favorable Brandt could be found on the mountain with his gun and dog, and notwithstanding the loss of his left arm, he is said to have been as good a shot with the rifle or fowling piece as could be found in that section. Another remarkable feat he could perform was that of cutting down a tree with his one arm as speedily as another man could with two. This fact is vouched for by many of his intimate associates. Another peculiarity in the subject of our sketch was, he was a *good* hotel keeper for the public at large, but a *poor* one for himself, for, being extremely good hearted, if a man came to him out of money and wanted a meal or lodging he could never refuse him, and during his hotel experience credited out over \$1,000, for which he received little or no return.

Brandt has always been identified with the Republican party in politics since he first exercised the right of citizenship casting his first vote during the administration of President Buchanan. From his frank manners and the great facility he possessed of getting easily acquainted, he



has always taken an active part at elections and was so successful as an electioneerer that his services were always in active demand during the strife of politicians for place and power. Although he never took the stump, he is said to have been a good wire puller and organizer in behalf of his party, but it is the subject of remark that he was always the loser financially by his participations in politics, as, being generally occupied in selling liquor and keeping hotel, his partisans would presume on his good nature and solicit favors which they never repaid.

Like the "Wandering Jew," we find him still on his travels, and this time we find him catering to the appetites of his customers in the hotel at Joseph's Springs, Union township, Lebanon county, and had been keeping there about seven years at the time of the Raber tragedy. There is nothing worthy of note in this man's history during his residence at Joseph's Springs, where he dealt out beer and whisky to the thirsty public, and seems to have been a pretty good customer himself, earning for himself among his boon companions the title of a "jolly good fellow." He is well known as a man of great personal courage. On one occasion, when keeping hotel at the Half Way House, a notorious character called Bill Brown, colored, outraged a woman and made his escape to the mountains. The desperate character of the man Brown was so well known that the constable of the district was afraid to execute the warrant, and cast about for some man of bravery to capture the villain. He ran across Brandt and asked him to execute the warrant, which he did, and handed the villain over to justice single handed. From this item and many others in the life of this man the reader will perceive that whatever actions he may have committed through life we can not couple with his character the name of coward.

On another occasion, before he got married, he lived a short time at Sinking Springs, and went to a camp meeting there, and it seems the roughs from Reading make it a business, or did so at that time, of invariably attempting to break up or disturb such gatherings. They came on this occasion as usual, but this time they were "barking up the wrong tree," for Israel was there, and, putting himself at the head of a few sturdy fellows, gave the roughs such a warm reception that they never attempted to disturb a campmeeting in that vicinity since.

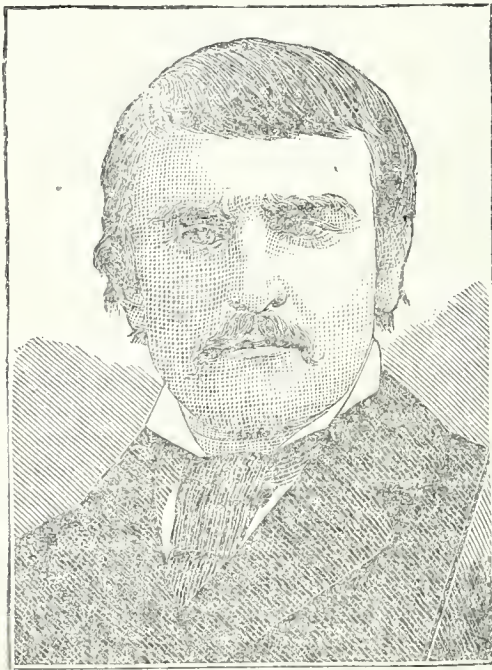
Brandt was arrested once for selling liquor to minors and served twenty-eight days in Lebanon jail during the time of Sheriff Matthews' term of office. He had been acquainted with Stichler about ten years; had known Wise five or six years; Drews, nine or ten years; Zechman, between two or three years; and Hummel three or four years. He had given employment to old Joseph Raber since 1864, who used to work for him cutting wood and doing chores generally around the house, and helped him along from motives of charity. He says Raber was a quiet old man, not much given to strong drink, but a great lover of the weed; was about sixty five years old at the time he was drowned, weighed about 160 pounds, and for a number of years was in rather destitute circumstances, and Brandt used to employ him simply to help him along. Brandt had four children by his second wife and two by his first wife, a family of six, all now living.

In personal appearance the subject of our sketch is rather tall; measuring 5 feet 11 inches in his bare feet, stands erect, and but for the loss of his arm, which somewhat detracts from his appearance, would be called what is generally known as a stalwart looking man. He tips the scale at 185 pounds. His frame is well knit and no doubt he would be a formidable antagonist in a personal encounter, notwithstanding the loss of his

arm. When his features are in repose he possesses rather ordinary expression of countenance, but when his feelings are aroused in argument or debate his features at once assume a fierce cast and present to the beholder a man with whom it would not be well to trifle. When his risible faculties are operated on his face assumes a most comical expression, which coincides with his character for practical joking, of which he is intensely fond. He wears a mustache and is somewhat bald. Brandt has the faculty of telling a story so as to bring out the most ludicrous points, and in this regard somewhat resembles Abraham Lincoln, whose well known reputation for relating funny anecdotes is universal throughout the land.

Brandt was sentenced to be hung, by Judge Henderson, on the 14th of November, 1879, for participating in the Raber tragedy, but on the 6th of October, the Supreme Court, in session at Pittsburg, decided that the application of Brandt and Hummel for a new trial should be heard at their next session, to be held in Philadelphia on the first Wednesday of January, 1880, thus giving them a new lease of life. This new trial was refused by the Supreme Court on the 9th of January, 1880.

## FRANKLIN STICHLER.



FRANKLIN STICHLER, EXECUTED NOVEMBER 14

This boy was born at Indiantown Gap on the 16th of October, 1859, about one-half mile from the scene of the tragedy. His ancestors were from Germany several generations back, and his parents are identified with those who labor for their daily bread. Frank's father was engaged in the business of charcoal burning for a livelihood, and the youthful subject of our sketch was identified from childhood with the wild and irregular life incumbent on those who engage in this precarious vocation. At the age of nine years the youth first went to school, only, however, in the fall and winter, as his services were in much demand at home in



assisting his father to keep the wolf from the door. He went to school on and off for about two years, but says himself he did not glean much benefit, as he was too full of fun and so much given to cutting up his childish pranks, that he paid more attention to amusing himself and making jokes on the other boys than heeding the precepts of the country school master. As a consequence, we find him at the age of eleven years, with little or no education, commencing the great struggle for existence and battle for life, compelled to associate with the rough crowd that inhabited the inhospitable region where he lived, performing every day almost a man's work when but a mere boy. Whenever circumstances permitted he was very fond of hunting, and relates many incidents of his achievements in that line. He was considered a good shot and could bring down a pheasant or rabbit with any person in that region. He relates many amusing anecdotes of his experience among the charcoal pits. When he could scarcely walk his father used to carry him in a coal basket when he went to work in the morning and carry him on his back from one pit to another. He was very much frightened when he saw the fires for the first time, but gradually got used to them, and in a short time made himself very useful to his father, and when he was twelve years old could almost perform a man's work. He never worked at any other business than that of charcoal burning, and never was further from home than Philadelphia, where he went on a visit for a few days.

The reader will perceive from the foregoing that young Stichler had few advantages to cultivate the more desirable traits of character. His life was passed in a monotonous struggle for bread, without the benefits of good surroundings or incentives to a higher state of moral culture, depending for his pastime on such pleasures as could be indulged in amongst the loose class of people with whom his interests were identified. He always bore the reputation of being free hearted, and was unsuccessful in saving his money, spending it on the pleasures of the hour. His father and mother are living, and frequently come to see him in jail. He seems especially attached to his mother, and after death sentence was pronounced she visited him in jail, and the scene between mother and son was most affecting. He always speaks in the warmest manner of his attachment for and devotion to his maternal relative. Stichler had been acquainted with Brandt and Drews since his childhood, with Hummel and Wise five or six years, and with Zebman a couple of years. Though not old enough to exercise the right of franchise, he has always been identified with the Democracy in politics. In personal appearance he is rather short and stocky, measuring only about 5 feet 7 inches, of strong build and fine physique. In weight he tips the scale at 170 pounds, is broad shouldered and looks the beau ideal of perfect health. The expression of his countenance when in repose presents nothing that would strike the beholder, but when roused by anger his blue eyes flash fire, and passion for the time is master of the man. He is quick tempered, prompt to perceive an insult, and is prompt to demand retraction. He has large, expressive, light blue eyes, large and well formed nose, thick, bushy eyebrows, that look like a black band across his forehead, giving him that aspect of ferocity when his passions are aroused. His square chin denotes firmness and determination, and under excitement he possesses a temper that might lead him into any extremes. He wears a mustache and has black hair. He walks with firm gait and erect figure. He is unmarried, being but 20 years old, but as he was always quite a favorite with the fair sex at the Gap, presume he would soon have entered his chances in the matrimonial lottery, had not the lust of gain obscured

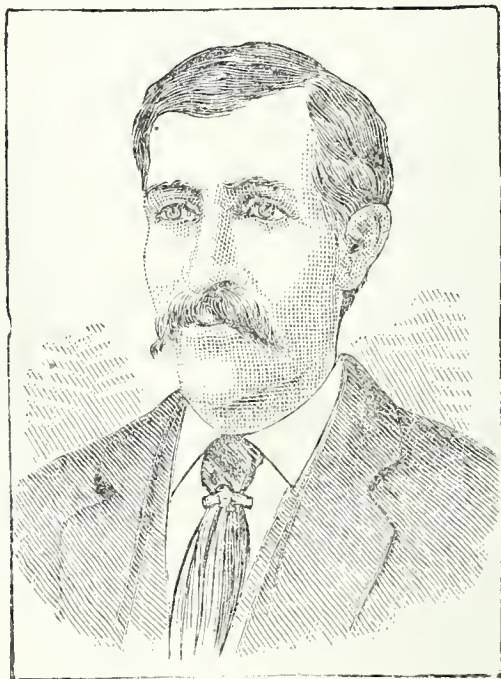


his better nature and caused him to commit an act which the laws of his country declare he shall atone for with his life, thus fulfilling the old saying that "murder will out," and the "way of the transgressor is hard." He is perfectly resigned to his fate, says he don't expect any reprieve, that there is no hope for him this side of the grave. He spends his time in prison reading his Bible and singing hymns, confident in propitiating the Supreme Being, to whom alone he looks for mercy. During his lifetime he was not addicted to the use of intoxicating liquors to excess, but used it moderately. He was always a great lover of the weed, having used it since his early boyhood. He it was (by his own confession) who murdered old Joseph Raber at Indiantown Gap, by throwing him into the creek, off a plank, and holding him under water until life was extinct, creating in the public mind a sense of universal horror, and directing against the participators in this cold blooded murder a perfect whirlwind of public indignation that will only be satisfied when all the guilty ones meet with their just deserts.

Franklin Stichler was sentenced to be hung on the 14th of November, 1879, by Judge Henderson, at the August term of court.

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## JOSIAH HUMMEL.



JOSIAH HUMMEL.

This young man was born on March 19, 1849, in Union township, Lebanon county. His ancestors were from Germany several generations back, and were identified with the sons of toil. His father followed the business of farming, and moved to Union township from Schuylkill county when Josiah was quite small. The place where he resided was distant about seven miles from the scene of the tragedy. He first went to school when he arrived at the age of eight years, and continued going on and off until he was twenty-one years old, attending, however, only in the fall and winter. He was known by his schoolmates as being possessed of a

quiet, inoffensive disposition, slow to learn, rather careless and indolent, making but slow progress with his studies. During his school days he helped his father on the farm, and was considered a plodding and quiet kind of person. The predominant trait in his character is his great respect and admiration for the gentler sex, and he was considered a species of "Knight Errant" by the belles of the surrounding country, and relates many incidents of his escapades with the fair sex. When he left school he seems to have got tired of tilling the ground, and in his twenty-first year started out on his own hook and went to learn the trade of boiler making, which business, however, did not suit him, as he remained only a few months and then cast about for some more congenial vocation. He finally wended his way to Brookside, where he engaged in coal mining, and remained there quite a number of years, during which his life was without much incident worthy of note, except the ordinary occurrences in the every day life of a coal miner. He relates many startling episodes of narrow escapes from falling coal, and severe trials incumbent on the men who embark in this pursuit to obtain a livelihood, and was working there at the time of the tragedy. From his early boyhood, when he could be trusted with a gun, he was a great lover of hunting, and says that almost the pleasantest time of his life was spent with his dog and gun in the free mountain air on the sharp lookout for pheasant or rabbit. At the time of his arrest he was engaged to be married to the lady of his choice, thus sustaining the old saying that the course of "true love never ran smooth." Hummel affirms, however, that notwithstanding the precarious position in which he finds himself, his affianced still remains true and holds the memory of her "gentle Josiah" enshrined in the inmost depths of her heart, all of which is great comfort to the bridegroom that was to be, as his pleasant reflections in that direction are somewhat of a consolation to him in the long, weary hours of his confinement. He has been acquainted with Israel Brandt about four years, with Stichler two years, with Wise eleven or twelve years, and Zechman twelve years. He knew Charles Drews three or four months before the tragedy.

In personal appearance the subject of our sketch is tall, measuring 5 feet 11 inches. In figure somewhat stooping. He tips the beam at 170 pounds, is rather loosely built, shoulders inclined to be sloping, but broad, and holds his head inclined downwards when walking. His head is large and well formed, surmounted by a luxuriant crop of light hair. The general expression of his face would denote a man of large benevolence, easy going, and fond of the pleasures of life. Is reserved in conversation, possesses a nose of the Grecian type, and, like his five companions in crime, is the owner of bright blue eyes, which fact has earned for him and his companions the sobriquet of "*blue eyed six*." He is rather partial to strong drinks and sometimes got gloriously drunk, and also a great lover of the weed. He wears his imprisonment well, and has not lost flesh since his incarceration. He was identified with the Lutheran doctrine as regards religion. His father and mother are living and frequently visit him in jail.

## HISTORY OF THE CASE.

In the autumn of 1878, Joseph Raber, a man about 60 years of age, lived in a shanty on the Blue Mountain, in Indiantown Gap, Lebanon county. He was very poor, and was engaged in no business, depending entirely for support on his daily labor and the charity of his neighbors.

Israel Brandt lived about three fourths of a mile from Raber's shanty,

at a place known as St. Joseph's Spring. Brandt's house had been used as a hotel at some previous time, but at this time was not licensed. Chas. Drews lived about two hundred yards from Brandt. Henry Wise, Josiah Hummel and George Zechman lived down the valley, along the mountain, from four to six miles away.

In the latter part of July, 1878, Israel Brandt and Josiah Hummel, together with Henry Wise and George Zechman, agreed to procure the insurance of Raber's life for their benefit. They accordingly applied to George W. Schweinhard, an insurance agent living in Lebanon, for the purpose of having applications made out to procure insurance on the life of Joseph Raber. Schweinhard met Brandt and Wise, with Raber, at the house of Brandt, in the beginning of August, at which time applications were made out for insurance, and the necessary entrance fees paid by Wise. Some time after, when the applications had been favorably considered by the insurance companies, and policies had been issued, on the receipt of a letter from Wise, Schweinhard met Brandt, Hummel, Wise, Zechman and Raber, at Lebanon, "for the purpose of having the assignments made of the policies that were on hand, and having more applications taken out," on the life of Joseph Raber. At that time the policies then on hand were assigned to the parties above named, by Raber; among others, a policy for \$2,000 in the Home Mutual Life Association, to Josiah Hummel, and a policy for \$1,000 in the New Era Life Insurance Company, to Israel Brandt. There were two other policies on hand amounting to \$5,000, one of which was assigned to George Zechman, and the other to Henry Wise, making the whole amount of insurance at that time on hand, and assigned to the said parties, \$8,000. At the same time they told Schweinhard that Raber was a very poor man, and that they had agreed to support him during life, and see him decently buried after his death.

The insurance having thus been secured, the parties were now ready to carry into effect their damnable purpose. They met frequently at Brandt's; were often seen together; sometimes one or two; sometimes more, on the public road going to and from the direction of Brandt's, and differed from others, who were present, in their actions, by calling each other aside, and consoling together apart.

This consorting together was noticed, and continued for and during three months before the death of Raber, after which it ceased.

The next step seems to have been to secure some one to commit the murder of Raber. Charles Drews, the neighbor of Brandt, appears to have been a willing instrument. He had no insurance upon the life of Raber, but undertook the commission of this crime for money. He first proposed to Elijah Stiehler that he should assist him, and when Stiehler inquired why he wished Raber killed, he gave as a reason that he was highly insured. The plan agreed upon was to drown him in Kitzmiller's dam. Raber was to be asked to go with them to fish in the dam. They were to take the flat. Drews was to push Raber off the flat, and then Stiehler was to pole the flat over him and drown him; after which Stiehler was to jump into the water, get wet, and then go to Michael Kohr's, who lived near the dam, for a change of clothes, and say that he had got wet in trying to save Raber from drowning. Drews was to give Stiehler \$100 for this service. This was about two weeks before Raber was murdered. Brandt and Hummel visited the dam together about this time. Brandt afterwards urged Stiehler to comply with Drews' request, saying that Drews was to get \$300 for doing it, and that if Stiehler helped, he, Brandt, would give him a good share, and each of the others would have to do so also. He further told Stiehler that they had this thing going on



for three months; that they first intended to chloroform him, but that he, Brandt, had struck upon the plan to drown him. Elijah Stichler did not assist, and after the death of Raber, Brandt told him that if he said anything about the matters he had told him, he, Stichler, would be a dead man.

In the latter part of November, or the beginning of December, 1878, Joseph F. Peters, a son in law of Drews, who had before that time enlisted in the army of the United States, returned home, and took up his residence with Drews. A short time after he arrived—perhaps within a day or two—Drews told him, while chopping wood on the mountain, that he was to receive \$1 500 for killing Raber, from Brandt and Hummel, amongst others, and wanted him to join in the killing.

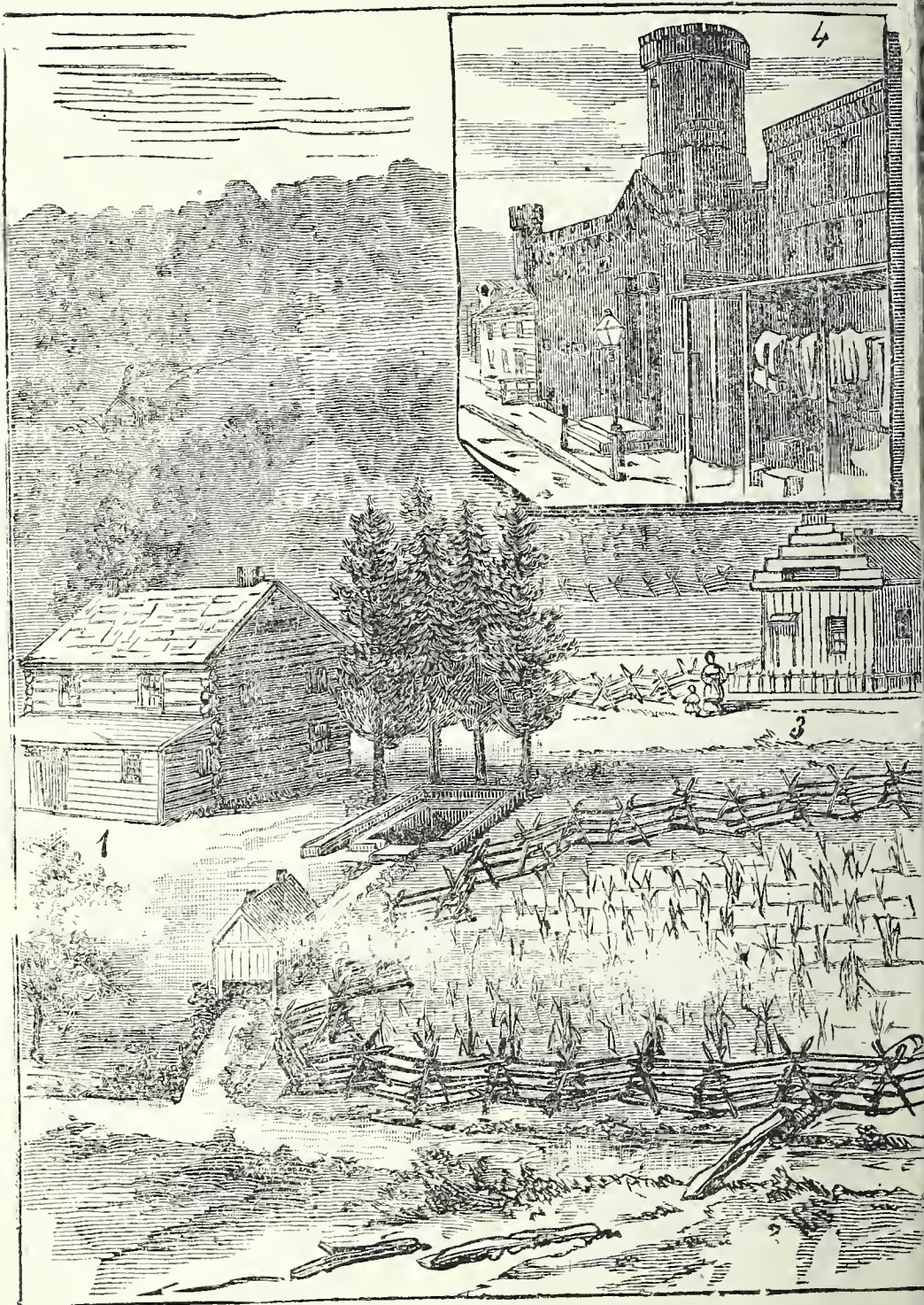
On the 7th of December, 1878, Charles Drews went to Raber's shanty and asked him to come down to his house for tobacco. Drews left for his home and Raber followed him. When Raber arrived at Drews' he was induced to go over to Kreiser's, which necessitated the crossing of Indian-town Creek. The creek was crossed by means of a plank, and at the plank was about 12 feet wide and 17 inches deep.

Then Charles Drews and Frank Stichler were seen accompanying him down from the house of Drews, through the fields, until they reached the creek. Stichler was first, Raber next, and Drews brought up the rear. When Raber reached the middle of the plank, crossing the creek, Stichler turned around and put his hands on Raber's shoulders, tripped him, and threw him into the creek. This was between 4 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon. In a few minutes Drews and Stichler were seen returning to the house of Drews without Raber. They entered the front room, and Stichler began to take off his clothes, which were wet. He directed Mrs. Drews, who supplied him with dry clothes, to hang his wet ones up to dry, and if any one came in, to remove them, so that they would not be seen. Both Stichler and Drews spoke of the difficulty they experienced in holding the old man down and drowning him. About six o'clock the neighbors were notified by Brandt and his son that Raber was drowned in the creek. Perhaps a dozen assembled and looked at the body of Raber, which was lying in the water, but they did not remove the body. Raber was quite dead.

Stichler's movements that evening, after he had put on dry clothes at Drews', do not appear, except that between 7 and 8 o'clock he was at Isaac Stewart's, and it was noticed and remarked upon that he had a military coat on. He accounted for it by saying he had been up at Drews' house that evening and traded coats with Joe. Peters. Joe. Peters did not trade coats with him that evening, but had a military coat, which he did not wear at that time, at Drews' house. Hummel and Brandt went to Lebanon for the coroner that night. Brandt became considerably intoxicated, and boasted to the coroner that they had insurances on the life of Raber to the amount of \$20,000, and offered him \$20 each to make a good report.

Some days after the murder Hummel told Drews, in a conversation about Raber, that when he got his money for drowning Raber he had better leave that part of the country, or the people might find it out. Drews also detailed to Hummel the story he gave out as to how Raber was drowned, and cautioned Hummel about letting anything be found out. Hummel assured him it should not be found out through him. Drews also, in a conversation with his wife after the drowning, in the course of which he expressed some doubt as to his getting the money that had been promised to him for killing Raber, said that there was no doubt about his getting it; they had bound themselves together by too hard a bargain, and the first who backed out would be shot. This had been agreed upon before they insured Raber.





1.—Brandt's Tavern, with Raber's hut on the mountain in the background. 2.—Plan from which the victim was thrown into the creek and drowned by Stichler. 3.—Drew house. 4.—Lebanon Jail.



## JUDGE HENDERSON'S CHARGE.

[Charles Drews, Franklin Stichler, Henry Wise, Israel Brandt, Josiah Hummel, and George Zechman were indicted at April term, 1879, for the murder of Joseph Raber, in Indiantown Creek, on the 7th of December, 1878. The trial was attached on April 17, 1879, and ended, after a desperate legal struggle, on April 23, 1879, with a conviction of all the defendants of murder in the first degree, the jury being out a few hours. The same day motions in arrest of judgment and for a new trial was entered by counsel for the defence. Messrs. C. P. Miller, Grant Weidman, J. G. Adams, District Attorney, and Charles H. Killinger represented the Commonwealth, and Messrs. W. M. Derr, J. P. S. Gobin, C. R. Lantz, P. G. Mark, and Frank E. Meily, the defendants. A full history of the case will be found in the following able charge of Judge Henderson.]

## GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY:

The six prisoners at the bar are indicted for the murder of Joseph Raber. Their lives are involved in the issue. You have listened with attention and patience to the evidence. It demands your calm and serious consideration. The law has imposed upon you the duty to determine the guilt or innocence of these men. The consequences which may follow a conviction are not yours. The law fixes the punishment.

Murder at common law is, "Where a person of sound memory and discretion unlawfully kills any reasonable creature in being, and in the peace of the Commonwealth, with malice aforethought, either expressed or implied." In Pennsylvania it is provided by statute, "that all murder which shall be perpetrated by means of poison, or lying in wait, or by any other kind of skillful, deliberate and premeditated killing, or which shall be committed in the perpetration, or attempt to perpetrate any arson, rape, robbery or burglary, shall be deemed murder of the first degree; and all other kinds of murder shall be deemed murder of the second degree: and the jury before whom any person indicted for murder shall be tried, shall, if they find such person guilty thereof, ascertain in their verdict whether it be murder of the first or second degree."

Manslaughter is the unlawful and felonious killing of another, without malice, either express or implied. Thus you observe that malice is a necessary ingredient in the crime of murder. Malice is an evil disposition in general. "It comprehends not only a particular ill will, but every case where there is wickedness of disposition, hardness of heart, cruelty, recklessness of consequences, and a mind regardless of social duty, although a particular person may not be intended to be injured." Malice is implied from the unlawful nature of the act. To constitute murder of the first degree the intention to kill must be formed and exist—without it the killing is only murder of the second degree.

As a general rule all homicide—every killing of another—is presumed to be murder; but only murder of the second degree, till the contrary appear. "It therefore lies on the Commonwealth to satisfy the jury of those facts and circumstances which indicate a deliberate intention to kill, and the cool depravity of heart and conscious purpose which constitute the crime of murder in the first degree."

It is not necessary that a person should strike the fatal blow or inflict the mortal wound, or with his own hand cause the death, in order to make him a principal in the crime. And every person who is present aiding and abetting is equally guilty with him—who perpetrates the unlawful act.

It is also necessary that you should understand in this connection the relation that accessories before the fact bear to the case, and their responsibility for the alleged crime. An accessory before the fact is one who, though absent at the time of the commission of the felony, doth yet procure, counsel, command, or abet another to commit such felony. It is provided in Pennsylvania that an accessory before the fact may be indicted, tried, convicted, and punished in all respects as if he were a principal felon.

We have briefly stated to you these few principals of the law applicable to this case, without comment or enlargement, that your attention may not be distracted or your minds drawn from the full and careful consideration of the evidence—the whole evidence—in your effort to determine the facts in the light of truth. This done, the application of the law to the facts thus ascertained will be free from difficulty.

It is alleged on the part of the Commonwealth that Joseph Raber came to his death



on the evening of the 7th of last December, by drowning, at the hands of two of these prisoners—Charles Drews and Franklin Stiehler—in Indiantown Creek, in the manner testified to by Joseph Peters, one of the Commonwealth's principal witnesses, who, according to his own testimony, was an eye witness to the occurrence. Joseph Raber, it appears, was a man of some years—50 or 60, perhaps, and upwards. Old Mr. Kreiser testifies that he was about 63 years of age. He lived in a shanty in a retired part of the county along the mountains, with an old woman named Mollie Kreiser. This shanty—his home—was in the neighborhood of a half mile from where his body was found in the creek.

We come now, without a waste of words, to the main question in the case. Was Joseph Raber murdered? This is denied by the defence. The evidence must be examined with great care. There does not seem to be much difficulty about the time of his death. The witness on the one side and the other fix it between 4 and 5 o'clock in the evening of the 7th of December last. And perhaps it is clear that if Charles Drews, one of the prisoners, was not the first person, he was one of the first who knew of his death, and saw him immediately after he was dead. It appears that he communicated the fact to his family and to Israel Brandt, who is also one of the prisoners. The little crowd that gathered at the creek and viewed the body of the deceased, as the pure waters of the mountain stream rippled over it, perhaps little anticipated at that time the story of a foul and brutal murder that was so soon to be told in the light of day. Is it true that a wicked conspiracy was known to Joseph F. Peters and his wife to take the life of its victim? Is it true that this same Peters looked out upon the three men—one of whom was walking to his death—as they walked away from the house of Drews on that fatal Saturday evening? Joseph Nye testifies that he saw Raber standing in the yard alongside of Drews' house on Thursday or Friday. He next saw him on the Saturday evening following, lying in the creek dead. The natural inquiry is: How did he get there? It is answered by Joseph F. Peters—if you believe his testimony—in a way that, whilst it accounts for the death of Raber, it fixes upon Charles Drews and Frank Stiehler the crime for which they stand indicted. For he says: "I heard them go out of the house and I went to the window there. I looked out, and saw Raber and Stiehler and Drews go down through the corn field." "Stiehler went first, and Raber was in the middle, and Drews there in the rear." "They went down straight to the plank and they crossed the plank, and when Raber was in the middle of the plank, Stiehler caught hold of Raber's shoulders and knocked his feet from under him, and threw him into the water." Do you recollect this as the testimony of Peters? If you do, you may also recall what occurred as detailed by the same witness, when Drews and Stiehler returned to the house, and Stiehler took off his "wet clothes, and Drews gave him some of his clothes to put on." In this connection the alleged conversation which Peters says he had with Drews before the drowning, and which he says "wasn't quite a week before," becomes pertinent, and may have, and should have if true—if believed by you—an important bearing in determining the willful, deliberate and premeditated character of the crime. Again the conversation and conduct of Drews and Peters immediately after the alleged drowning, at the house of Drews. Did Stiehler say: "Hang up his wet clothes in the heat so they would dry, and if anybody would come into the house and could meet him there, that they would take the clothes away so nobody would see them?"

Is this testimony corroborated? The daughter of Drews is relied upon by the Commonwealth to support the statements of her husband in several essential particulars. If the story is manufactured, it is the work of two minds, and is supported by the perjury of two or more persons. Joseph Peters testifies—indeed we do not know that the fact is at all questioned—that he and his wife were upstairs in the house of Drews, at the very time it is alleged Raber was murdered: and it was from an upper window of that house—looking out upon the scene—that he says he saw what he has here described. Enrose Drews was in the same room and at the same time: but from some cause, whether because he was asleep or stupefied with liquor, his presence there does not seem to throw much, if any, light upon what transpired in that room. Mrs. Peters, however, does corroborate her husband in reference to at least the fact that he was at the window, and to the statements of most important bearing and significance after they came down stairs, and as it is said, found Drews there, and Stiehler in the act of changing his wet clothes. I do not pursue the details of this testimony. It is sufficient that you give it your most careful attention; for if you believe it, does it not fasten upon at least two of the prisoners the guilt of the crime

charged? But there is some testimony offered by the defence that bears directly on this branch of the case, and should not be overlooked. Penrose Drews, a son of Charles Drews, and a brother of Mrs. Peters, testifies with some positiveness that he did not come down stairs till between 9 and 10 o'clock that evening. You will recollect his condition when he was dragged to bed as stated by his sister, Mollie Drews, and by himself. He further says that Peters and his wife were both drunk, and that they did not come down stairs until after he did. Mollie Drews says it was about 10 o'clock when Penrose got up, and that Peters got up about 9 o'clock. One or the other may be mistaken as to which got up first, and as to the hour at which either got up. As to the mere measurement of time, or the hour indicated by the clock, the opinion of the witness may not be so material. It is only with relation to other facts, as to the order in which they occurred, that you may find the evidence vital, and the apparent difference as to time material. Were Peters and his wife up out of bed and down stairs when Drews and Stichler came in—if they did come in—for if they were, they were in a position to see and hear, and tell what they saw and heard; but if they were in bed at a place different from the place where the scene that they describe took place they could not have witnessed it, and their account of it can not be true. But how is this fact? Mollie and Penrose, as between themselves, are at variance as to the time and the relative order in which these persons came down stairs. But let us look further. Miles Brandt, another of the defendants' witnesses, says he went up for Peters and found him in Drews' house. He thinks this was after 8 o'clock, and, as I understand, after the party had been at the creek to view the body. This, however, you will ascertain. It may be a material circumstance, for I think Miles Brandt testifies that he was down at the creek and names the persons he saw there. As we view it—and you should give it your attention—a most significant fact in this inquiry is, were Peters and his wife down at the creek at the time this dozen or more persons assembled there to look for the first time upon the dead body of Raber? If they were, they were not in bed or in the room upstairs in Drews' house; and Mollie and Penrose must be mistaken in pushing them out of the way, or fixing the time when they got up and came down stairs. Now let us see who says they were down at the creek, or saw him and his wife out in the evening. Joseph Nye says he was there at the creek—I mean where Raber was lying dead—between 7 and 8 o'clock, and that Joseph Peters and Mrs. Peters (wife of Joseph,) were there, and names over the others who were present at the same time. Jacob Kreiser saw them there, and at or about the same time. He lives about half a mile off, and when he got home he thinks it was about 8 o'clock. Charles Geib also saw them. In this then, if these witnesses are not mistaken, Joseph Peters and his wife are corroborated, for they both say they went down and were with the others when they examined the body with the light. Are Mollie Drews and Penrose Drews telling the truth when they say they were upstairs in bed? Are they mistaken when they say that they did not come down stairs till after 9 o'clock? In either event, under this evidence, can you set aside the testimony of Joseph Peters and his wife, or are they so supported by facts, established by other evidence in the cause, as to justify you in not believing this part, at least, of the evidence of the defence? If the time of their coming down stairs, as testified to by Penrose and Mollie, is a mistake, then does not the testimony of these witnesses tend to support the evidence of Peters and wife? It is at least apparent that these four witnesses are not in conflict as to the fact that they were in the room upstairs at the time Raber was drowned. This renders the story of Joseph Peters at least possible.

Do Joseph Peters and Lena Peters tell here upon the stand truthfully what transpired in the room after they came down stairs? Again, at this point, you have observed that these witnesses are contradicted flatly in every material statement that they have made in reference to what occurred in the lower room of Drews' house, in the evening of the 7th of December last, by this same Mollie Drews. Have we seen that she was mistaken? Are you satisfied by the evidence that she was mistaken as to the fact of their being there at all? If she was in this, may she not be mistaken again? Was the information withheld by Peters or given at a time and under circumstances to discredit it? Or has he satisfied you by sufficient reason why he did not sooner divulge the terrible secret that was pent up in his bosom? He has told you of his fears and of the threats that were made against him, and given this as a reason which prevented him from telling how Raber came to his death until after he got out of the neighborhood. This witness has been subjected to a close, critical and severe cross-examination. His testimony has been marked by circumstances even to a minuteness



of detail that challenges contradiction, and argues the truth of it. Is it corroborated by his wife? Is it supported by time, place and circumstance? If it is, upon a careful review of the circumstances, shall it be set aside to give place to the story of Mollie Drews? It is true an attempt was made to assail the character of this witness for truth. How far this was successful you will perhaps, if it enters into your serious consideration at all, have no difficulty in determining. Can this story of Joseph Peters be a concocted story? If so, it does not appear to have been an original conception of Joseph F. Peters, for you will recollect that Elijah Stiehler says that Drews offered him \$100 to pole the flat across the dam, with himself and Raber in the flat. Drews was to throw him in, and he was to pole the flat over him—he was to drown him. This same witness also testifies that Israel Brandt gave him the plan afterwards, and Brandt said that Drews was getting \$300 to drown Raber. “He said I should go along and help to do it.” This is important testimony in itself, if believed; for it brings Brandt and Drews together in a plan for the drowning of this man Raber. It may satisfy you that a plot or conspiracy did exist to take his life, and that an attempt was being made to put this plan into execution, and that it did not exist only in the imagination of Joseph F. Peters. This evidence you should consider with care. The witness is competent. Is he credible? Do you believe him? He gives his evidence with positiveness and particularity. Do you discover in the evidence anything to render impossible his statements? Is it contradicted by other evidence in the cause? It is for you to pass upon.

It is pressed as a fact of some importance on the part of the defendants that there were no marks of violence on the person of Joseph Raber. An effort was made to show that at the place where his body was found the bottom of the creek was covered with stones. Whether this is a fact or not, we submit to you under the evidence, and, as you find it, apply its bearing to the condition in which the body was found. Does it aid you in any way in determining whether the deceased was thrown in or fell in whilst attempting to cross the planks over the stream.

Again, examine the evidence and see if you can satisfy yourselves whether the window sash, produced here in court, is the same one that was in the house when Joseph Peters says he saw Raber thrown into the water. If it is, could he see through it? If it is not, then are you satisfied that this piece of testimony was manufactured for the purpose of this defence? The Commonwealth has endeavored to establish that the stones in the creek and the window sash exhibited to you are of the same character—both attempts to conceal the truth and break the force of the Commonwealth's direct and positive testimony. The evidence is for your consideration.

The Commonwealth allege and endeavor to show a motive for the crime. It is found in the testimony of the witnesses already referred to, and so frequently repeated and fully discussed that I shall not further comment upon it. Was Charles Drews and Frank Stiehler induced to take the life of Joseph Raber for money—for hire?

Is the testimony of Elijah Stiehler, Joseph Peters and Lena Peters true? Does it explain to you the motive for taking Raber's life?

The defendants are not required to account for the cause of Raber's death, either by theory or proof. This would be requiring them to prove their innocence. The duty is devolved upon the Commonwealth to prove the defendants, or some of them, guilty before a conviction can be had of any. The law presumes innocence until guilt is proved by the Commonwealth. It is your duty in deciding upon the case, or any material part of it, to give the prisoners the benefit of any reasonable doubt arising out of the evidence which prevents you from coming to a satisfactory conclusion. But it must be an honest doubt, and not the mere possibility of a doubt. Examine the evidence closely and carefully, and when you have thus considered all the facts on both sides, if you have a reasonable conscientious doubt, the prisoners are entitled to the benefit of it, and it works an acquittal. On the other hand, if the Commonwealth has satisfied you by the evidence, beyond a reasonable doubt, that Charles Drews and Frank Stiehler are guilty of the crime charged, of wilfully and maliciously causing the death of Joseph Raber, it is your duty to say so by your verdict. Are you satisfied from the evidence that Joseph Raber came to his death by other than natural causes—by violence—that he was murdered?

GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY: Up to this point we have been speaking more particularly of the evidence as it bears upon the guilt or innocence of Charles Drews and Frank Stiehler, the alleged principals. You approach now another branch of this case. Josiah Hummel, Henry Wise, Israel Brandt and George Zechman are jointly indicted



with Drews and Stiehler upon the allegation that they were accessories before the fact. In other words, that they conspired together to encompass the death of Joseph Raber, and for this purpose procured and promised to pay their principals. They hired them, it is alleged on the part of the Commonwealth, to commit a brutal, wilful, deliberate and premeditated murder. If any one, or all of these prisoners combined, joined in this most nefarious purpose, one and all who did so join may be convicted of the crime consummated just as clearly as if they were present and participating in the act.

The theory on the part of the Commonwealth is that these four men conspired together to insure the life of Joseph Raber, and then procure his death in order that they may profit by the insurance upon his life. If this theory is established each one who entered into the conspiracy is responsible for what is done by the other in furtherance of the common object, because the act or declaration of one conspirator or accomplice, is considered the act of all. This being so, the act or declaration of one in furtherance of the common object, is evidence against all who may be properly connected by the proof of the fact of conspiracy between the parties.

We turn again to the testimony. As a fact, was the life of old Joseph Raber insured? Their own declarations—the declarations of each one of them show that they had some interest, or that they thought they had, in his life. Geo. W. Schweinhard testifies that he is engaged in the life insurance business, and that he took several policies on Raber's life in different companies; and that these policies, or interests in them or some of them, were assigned to four of the prisoners at the bar—Josiah Hummel, Henry Wise, Israel Brandt and George Zeelman; and, if I recollect aright, you will remember each one held an insurance policy upon the life of Raber at the time of his death. We do not stop here to cavil. We do not decide now upon the validity of these policies, nor is the question of the regularity of the assignments, or whether or not they were approved of by the companies. This most dangerous and pernicious system of speculation in life is against law, and should be discountenanced by all well ordered companies. Did these prisoners assert their claim in these policies? Did they meet after the death of Joseph Raber and make out, or cause to be made out, death proofs to collect the insurance? It appears further in the testimony of George W. Schweinhard that each man was to hold his own policy—the policies were assigned for their benefit, "and the parties to whom they were assigned were to hold them themselves." He also tells you that after the death of Raber a day was fixed to meet at Brandt's to make proof of death, and the defendants all met there, and that the death proofs were then made out and signed. This was done in order to collect the several amounts claimed to be due on the policies they held on Raber's life. This witness also testifies that they remarked to him—I am not certain that he mentioned each one—that Raber was a very poor man; that he was in needy circumstances, "and they had promised Mr. Raber to support him through life for this insurance." In this fact of life insurance the Commonwealth seeks to show the motive for this alleged crime.

Did these parties, or any of them, conspire with Drews and Stiehler to kill Raber? Are they connected in their guilty enterprise by their own declarations? Lena Peters testified that Wise said in her presence "that father should hurry up the drowning of Raber before Friday or Saturday." As to Brandt she says that he said, "that I was the fault that Stiehler and Drews didn't drown Raber sooner." This was about a week before Raber's death. You will also recall the testimony of this same witness as to the conversation between Hummel and her father. She says Hummel said, "that as soon as father had his money he should go away, or else the people would find it out;" and that father said to Hummel that he should be careful what he said about it, and Hummel replied, "Yes, nobody would get anything out of him." The subject of this conversation, you will remember, was the death of Raber. The whole of the testimony of this witness should be carefully scrutinized, and these declarations testified to by her should be received by you with great caution. You should be well assured of its truth in the light of the surrounding circumstances of this case, and of the credibility of the witness, before you give to it the effect of truth; for if it is true it intimately associates and connects all three of these prisoners with Charles Drews. Do you believe Lena Peters? Now from this point you will examine the evidence, and perhaps you may have no difficulty, if you start with the truth, the conviction of the truth, of this evidence of Lena Peters in connecting at least three prisoners—Josiah Hummel, Henry Wise and Israel Brandt—with Charles Drews and Frank Stiehler in the conspiracy to murder Joseph Raber, if you find from the evidence that he was

murdered by Drews and Stichler.

Have you any declaration of George Zechman? Is there any evidence that connects or tends to connect him in a criminal attempt, or conspiracy, against the life of Joseph Raber? We instruct you that you must exclude the declarations of the other defendants until he is connected with them, by proof, in the conspiracy.

It can not be said that because he is interested in the insurance—for this seems to be common—that this imputes to him guilt. It can not be inferred because he was seen with one, or any of them, in a public road, or in a public place, even at the house of an alleged conspirator. These were all public places, open to the light of day. I say that it can not be inferred from any or all of these facts that he was engaged in plotting the death of Joseph Raber. It can not be said that he was criminally connected with the others merely from the fact that he met with them to take the assignment of the policies or the death proofs. But it is said that when John Fehler called upon Zechman for money, which he owed him, that he said he had no money just now, but that he had Joe Raber insured, and he then said he thought he couldn't just live so long any more. Is this suspicious, or does it carry its antidote with it? This, it is true, was but a week or two before the death, but it was under circumstances, as detailed by Mr. Fehler, that were perhaps natural and reasonable. It does not of itself point to any connection with the other defendants in a criminal conspiracy. It of itself is not sufficient to make him a co-conspirator, so as to make the declarations of the others evidence against him. We instruct you that in passing upon the guilt or innocence of George Zechman, you must entirely exclude from your consideration the declarations of the other defendants, which although competent as to each one, and if in furtherance of a common design, to all connected by proof; but as to George Zechman, or any not so connected in a common conspiracy, are mere hearsay, and can not enter into your consideration at all either for the purpose of establishing a conspiracy or connecting him or any one as an accessory before the fact, or as affecting the question of his guilt or innocence. His conduct afterwards, in wanting to have the body watched, is for your consideration. Is it explained by the fact that he was interested in the insurance? How does it connect him with a conspiracy to murder Raber?

It only remains for us now to read and answer the several points of defendants' counsel, which we think are fully answered in the general charge. We will, however, read them and briefly affirm the several propositions of law they contain.

1. The jury must be satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that a violent act or acts of Stichler and Drews was the cause of the death of Joseph Raber, and the Commonwealth is bound to prove this fact to the jury.

This point is affirmed.

2. That the fact of the deliberate and premeditated murder of Joseph Raber, by Stichler and Drews, must be proved to the jury beyond a reasonable doubt, which if not done, the doubt works an acquittal of all the defendants without any regard to the fact whether a conspiracy was formed or not to kill the said Raber.

This point is affirmed.

3. The Commonwealth must satisfy the jury beyond a reasonable doubt that a conspiracy was formed by these defendants or any or some of them, to deliberately and premeditatedly kill the said Joseph Raber; and that in this conspiracy so formed all or some or any of these defendants acted in concert, and in pursuance of the same the said Joseph Raber was deliberately and premeditatedly killed by the said Stichler and Drews.

If the jury are satisfied from the evidence, beyond a reasonable doubt, "that the said Joseph Raber was deliberately and premeditatedly killed by the said Stichler and Drews," the Commonwealth has made out such case as will justify the conviction of Stichler and Drews, and any one or more of the other defendants of whose guilt in a conspiracy with them to kill the said Joseph Raber you are satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt.

4. If the jury are left in doubt and uncertainty as to the deliberate and premeditated killing of Joseph Raber, and of the fact that there was a conspiracy to kill the said Raber, in pursuance of which the said Raber was premeditatedly and deliberately killed, and this doubt arises either from a conflict of positive evidence on one side and the other, or from all the circumstances in the case, then the jury must acquit all the defendants.

This point is affirmed.



5. Under the law the jury can acquit all or any one or more of the defendants, having a reasonable doubt of their guilt.

This point is affirmed.

6. That before they can convict any of these defendants, the jury must be satisfied of their guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, and for this the Commonwealth must furnish the evidence, and if not so furnished, the jury must acquit.

This point is affirmed

GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY: I have in this general summary endeavored to direct your attention to the important issues you have to decide, and instruct you in the principles of law applicable to them. There is a wide range of testimony which I have not alluded to, and do not desire to do so. None of it, however, is therefore to be lost sight of by you, or excluded from your consideration in making up the verdict. The credibility of the witnesses is for you. We submit all the evidence to you, that you may search it for the truth; and as you believe it to be, so declare it.

We have said that in order to convict any one or more of these defendants you must be satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt of the guilt of the party convicted. In case of conviction of any of the defendants of murder, it is your duty, under the law, to ascertain in your verdict whether it be murder of the first or murder of the second degree. And we have said to you that if it is wilful—the intention existing at the time—it can not be murder of the second degree.

The case is with you. These prisoners are given in your charge.

The counsel for the defendants then excepted to the charge of the Court, whereupon the exceptions were sealed at the defendants' request.

Verdict: All the prisoners "Guilty of murder in the first degree."

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## SENTENCED TO DEATH.

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### *Drews, Stichler, Brandt, and Hummel Sentenced to Death.*

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On Monday afternoon, August 18, all the prisoners, with the exception of Zeelman, who was granted a new trial, and Wise, who made a confession to the Commonwealth's counsel on Saturday, the 16th, were sentenced to death by Judge Henderson. They all appeared in court except Zeelman.

District Attorney Adams moved for judgment against Drews, Stichler, Brandt and Hummel, whereupon the Court asked whether they had anything to say for themselves. Their replies were as follows:

Drews—"Nothing, I am not guilty."

Stichler—"I am not guilty, and did not get justice here."

Hummel, (in German)—"I have nothing to say at present."

Brandt—"No, not now; but when the time comes I'll tell."

The Court then, in a deeply solemn manner, pronounced the following charge and sentence, naming each prisoner in turn, Brandt being the last to take his seat:

"We have patiently and calmly considered and reconsidered everything that has been advanced in your defence. Your cause has been zealously guarded by most able counsel.

"Your assertions of innocence do not impress our minds with the conviction of their truth. You are adjudged guilty. You have been convicted of murder in the first degree—its punishment is death. It is wisdom to punish crime. It has divine sanction. Everything worth living for demands it. We pity the criminal—our hearts may well up with sympathy towards each one of you in this hour of your deep distress, but the law calls for the judgment of the law.

"We would be glad, even now, to pass by the sad duty in the welcome light that your innocence might be discovered. We stop not to harrow your feelings by calling back to your memory—if it can ever be effaced—the cruel and wicked murder of old Joseph Raber. The awful consequences which flow from this crime may startle but



must not deter us in the performance of duty.

"We commend you to the mercy of Him who will hear the cry of the penitent and cleanse from the guilt of all unrighteousness.

"Indulge no vain hope to escape from the penalty of the law. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.

"The sentence of the law, as pronounced by the Court, is that you, [naming each prisoner,] be taken to the prison whence you came, and thence to the place of execution within the jail yard, and that you there be hanged by the neck until you are dead, and may God have mercy on your soul."

At this point the anxiety of the audience as to what was to be done with Wise was relieved by District Attorney Adams asking, in the interest of justice, that Wise's sentence be suspended, and that he be remanded to jail, which was done.

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## CONFESSIONS.

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### *Confessions of Wise, Drews, and Stichler, with Statements of Brandt and Hummel.*

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As stated in the preceding chapter, Wise, on Saturday, the 16th of August, sent for the Commonwealth counsel—Messrs. Miller, Weidman, and Adams—and revealed to them his story of the Raber murder and other crimes. For good and sufficient reasons this was not made public at the time, but enough of it was revealed to not only give it great weight, but at the same time arouse among the other prisoners a feeling of mutual distrust, the result of which was a common desire to also "confess." He admitted having been originally in the plot to murder Raber, by another method, but declared that he withdrew, telling his companions in crime that he would have nothing to do with it. When he made his confession he was subjected to a close examination by the Commonwealth counsel, who were closeted with him for several hours.

After this, startling events followed each other in quick succession, keeping the story of the murder ever fresh before the public.

#### DR-WS' CONFESSION.

On Saturday evening, August 31, Charles Drews, the oldest of the convicted men, sent for Messrs. Miller, Weidman, and Adams, Commonwealth counsel, and told them he was ready to make a full confession. Drews was very calm and collected in his manner, but several times expressed the hope that his life might at least be spared. In this, however, he received no encouragement. The confession was taken in German, substantially as follows:

"I went to Brandt last summer and we sat on the porch; he treated me to beer; we both felt the effects of it; he said we could make money, and how; before he told me he asked me to drink again, and then he said he and others would insure Raber and work him out of the way; he told me how to do it; said I would consider it; then I asked if he was alone; he replied that there were three others with him; mentioned Hummel, Wise and Zeehman; said I did not know them, and he offered to bring them up to have me see them; I saw them, but only knew Wise: from boyhood up I knew him; I then agreed, and they insured Raber; I said it was a hard thing to kill Raber; he said they could make money; when they again met Zeehman said there were five interested; Hummel also spoke about it; Wise came and asked whether I was to kill Raber; I told him I wasn't certain; he urged me to go ahead, and said they would shoot me if I didn't; I promised, but never intended to do it; they often urged me, as the insurance had all been effected; Brandt afterward said they had the plan ready, and if I didn't kill him they would shoot me; to save my life I promised; I knew not what to do, my life was in danger; a week or two afterward Wise said I shouldn't do it, as far as he was concerned; he saw I didn't like the job; I think it was the same day he said I had to kill Raber, as testified; I then asked Frank Stichler to do it because I could not; Stichler said he didn't care, he could kill anyone, but bargained

should go along, which I promised, but declared I would not touch Raber; then Raber came to my house, and we went off together with Stichler; I was first, Raber in the middle, with Stichler following; I went over the plank and when Raber got on it Stichler got Raber by the legs with his hands, threw him in, and jumped in on top of him; Raber fell below the plank; I then went back to the fence; it was first intended to drown Raber in the dam; Brandt had planned that Raber was to go fishing at Kitzmiller's to catch fish for Zechman's wife, and then I was to drown him; we went and Peters went with us; when I saw the dam I couldn't do it, and said we would return, when Raber replied, "yes it was too cold anyhow;" I pitied him; the drowning at the plank afterwards was also the plan of Brandt; Brandt had promised me \$300 and the others would do the same; he promised Stichler nothing; I had tried to coax Elijah Stiehler, but he would not go with me; I said to Frank I would give him \$300 after I was paid; when it was done they tried to swindle me out of all and kill me; this was planned behind the shed at Brandt's, as testified; this they told me in jail; when they asked me to go to Zechman via Rankstown I thought they wanted to kill me then; Brandt always urged me in jail to keep quiet about the matter, as they hoped to get clear; I didn't see the conspirators so very often about the matter; I engaged Frank Stiehler to do the job after the Kitzmiller plan failed; I didn't go into the water; after the drowning Stiehler went up to my house, and I went to Brandt; I didn't see the old man's struggles; the plank was made wet by the splash when Raber fell; Brandt had Brandt had Raber insured in another company to kill him, but the company failed, and with it the plan; Brandt told me what to say before the coroner's inquest; it was part of the general plan; Brandt often urged me while in jail not to confess; he called at my cell to-day for that purpose; I am afraid of him, but not of the others; if you hang me you will hang an innocent man."

STICHLER'S CONFESION.

The startling effect of Drews' confession had hardly passed away, when Stichler, the youngest of the prisoners, gave his version of the crime. This was done on Tuesday afternoon, September 2d, the confession being made to his counsel, C. R. Lantz, esq., and Col. J. P. S. Gobin, also of counsel for the defence. He had sent for them, and the confession was freely made, as follows:

"The first I ever knew of this thing was when Zechman and Wise came to Brandt on a Sunday, and I met them on the road, near my grand mother's house; I went with them in their buggy to Brandt's, where Wise and I went upon the dance floor, and the others remained at the hotel; Wise then told me about insuring an old man, and that he wanted 'us fellows up there' to work him out of the way; this was before Raber was insured; I then asked him who the victim was to be, when he told me it was Joe Raber; nothing more was said until December 5, when I was at Harrisburg, and on returning home that day I stopped at Drews' house, when he called me out and asked whether I would help to kill old Raber; Peters came to us while we were talking, and both of them said they had been to Kitzmiller's dam, where they wanted to drown Raber, but couldn't owing to the flat being filled with water; this was all we talked then, and I went home; this was December 5; on Friday, the 6th, toward evening, I went up again; Peters then had chloroform or ether, which he had purchased from a Jonestown druggist; I went home again, and on Saturday evening, the 7th, went up to Drews again; Drews then went for Raber, but he was not at home, and he returned without him; at about 3 o'clock Drews went over to Raber's house again and asked him to go with him, as he would give him tobacco; Raber eat supper before going; when Raber reached Drews' house Peters arrived with whisky; then Peters, Drews, Penrose, Mrs. Peters and I drank all the whisky; Peters and his wife then went upstairs to bed; Penrose was carried upstairs drunk; Drews, Raber and I remained in the house a while, and then went to the creek, Drews leading off and I in the rear; we persuaded Raber to go with us under the pretext of getting meat at I. Kreiser's; when we were all on the plank I took Raber by the legs and threw him into the water, and I jumped in on top of Raber and I got him by the hair, and in order to keep his head under water Drews, who remained on the plank, pressed upon me, our combined force keeping him down; we held him down from five to ten minutes; then I went to Drews' house and he went to Brandt's; when I got out of the water I jumped on the plank; it got wet, however, when Raber fell; there were were a few stones near by in the channel;



before leaving the creek I dragged Raber's body down the creek a few feet; when I got to Drews' heuse I undressed and put on dry clothes, consisting of Drews' pants and Peters' shoes and coat; after I was dressed Peters came down stairs still intoxicated; I went first from Drews' house to Miller's, and from there to a raffling match at Isaac Stewart's; from there, after remaining about two hours, I returned to Drews' again; when the death proofs were made out we went out behind the shed, and there Hummel and Brandt asked me whether I couldn't loan them some money; I thought I might give them some on Monday, and also said that if any one said the least thing about the murder of Raber they might as well order their coffins; this I told to Wise, Hummel, and Brandt behind the shed; about two months before Raber's murder Wise wanted Elijah Stichler and myself to murder another fellow, but we wouldn't do it; I don't pretend to being innocent; I did the deed, and Drews helped me; I don't know that Wise, Hummel, and Brandt knew or know anything about my connection with the murder, as Drews was to pay me; I never asked where he was to get the money to pay me, and therefore know nothing about his accomplices, if he had any; I was to get \$100 and Drews \$300."

#### BRANDT AND HUMMEL.

The two confessions of Drews and Stichler had the effect of rousing Brandt and Hummel, so that on Wednesday morning, September 3, they too sent for their counsel, Col. Gobin, who called upon them, accompanied by W. M. Derr, esq., and C. R. Lantz, esq., also of counsel for defence, to whom they made the following statements:

#### BRANDT'S STATEMENT.

"The first of this insurance was when Wise brought Dr. Capp to my house and examined Raber for \$11,000 for Wise; Wise paid for the examination; Schweinhard had a policy and came to me with it; Wise owned the policy that Hummel has; Schweinhard said he would give me a policy on the New Era; I preferred the Reading Company policy, but this he couldn't give; Schweinhard and John Heilman came and staid with me over night, and as Schweinhard owed me money he offered me the New Era policy as collaterol security for a debt until he could get the Reading policy; a few months afterward Schweinhard and Ditzler came and we settled; I then said he might take the New Era policy with him and I would settle, as the policy was worthless; he wouldn't take the policy with him, so I had it when Raber was drowned, a month afterward; I know nothing about any conspiracy to put Raber out of the way; Drews first told me of the drowning; I went to the creek and said we would have to send for neighbors; my boy I sent to D. Nye and I went to J. Kreiser's; eight or ten men came and we all let him lie; I then went to John Trout to have him take me to Zechman's to get a jury. Zechman told us his wife was sick, he couldn't go, and that we should go to Hummel; Hummel and I got the coroner, returning at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning; we then took Raber out of the water; about fifty persons were present; a jury was empaneled and the body examined; saw nothing wrong about the body; Drews said he saw him fall into the water; no others saw it; this he swore before the coroner's inquest; Drews sent for Polly Kreiser, Raber's housekeeper; I said this was useless, as the woman was partly insane or weakminded; when they asked her anything in English she laughed, but in German she told a straight story; we wondered that she knew so much, and afterwards Drews said he had prompted her to say what she did; at the funeral Dr. Shirk and Schweinhard attended, and wanted to hold a post mortem, and they wanted \$25 for this; we said we wouldn't pay it, as the coroner's verdict was sufficient; Wise wanted it done, however, and offered \$20 for the job, and it was done then; Schweinhard came to my house late one evening last summer; he often gave Drews \$1 to go and tell Wise he should be there early next morning; he demanded proof of faithful performance of this duty on the part of Drews; Wise often forged my name to letters to this effect; I knew not why we were arrested and imprisoned; after April court Drews told Stichler that they should say I and Peters had chloroformed Raber and dragged him to the creek, but that he had caught us at it; this he also said his wife would swear to; I know nothing more about this transaction; I stake my eternal salvation upon the assertion that I never employed any man. [He corroborated Stichler throughout concerning the testimony behind the shed.] I never bargained with Elijah Stichler to drown Raber in Kitsmiller's dam; I never offered Drews one cent or anything to drown Raber; I was in no conspiracy of



any kind; I spoke to Frank Stichler at 2 o'clock on Saturday, but he had been at my house very early in the morning to go with him to hunt wild turkeys; I have not talked to Drews for about two months, since we have been in jail, and never influenced him in any way ~~at~~ to make a confession. This is all I know."

HUMMEL'S STATEMENT.

"I know nothing more of this thing except concerning the policy of insurance, which I got from Henry Wise; know absolutely nothing; didn't have anything to do with it; bought the policy from Wise; I never told Drews that he should leave that section after he got paid out of the insurance money. I did tell him, after he told me that he expected about \$1,200 pension money, that it would be well for him to go west then; concerning my being at Kitzmiller's dam with Brandt, he had gone along with me to show me the road, as I had never been that way before, and I wanted to go for hoop poles at Shultz's; [He corroborated Brandt and Stichler as to the conversation behind the shed.] as sure as there is a God in heaven I know nothing about this entire thing."

STICHLER'S SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT.

On Thursday afternoon, September 4, Stichler made another statement, desiring to make a correction in his confession so far as he had mentioned Wise in connection with another contemplated murder. It was as follows:

"Two young persons [none of the prisoners] came to my father's house one evening about two months before Raber's death and told me Henry Wise was up at Brandt's and that I should come up, as they intended to rob a man named Henry Hauser, living in Fishing Creek Valley. They said the plan was to shoot him, then to place his body under the bedding and set fire to it, so as to convey the idea that the house had been accidentally destroyed and the victim with it. The other beds and bedding were to have been taken out of the house by Wise. This was the plan as told me by these two, but I refused to have anything to do with it. Next morning Israel Brandt told me the deed would have been done if I had gone along. I knew the parties who had Raber insured, and their names were Wise, Brandt, Hummel and Zechman, but I only learned of Hummel's connection after Raber's death. When Raber fell his head struck the water first, but it did not touch the bottom in the fall, which accounts for lack of marks. Raber did not struggle at all, except to try to raise himself on his hands."

Wise was present when Stichler said this, and acknowledged that Stichler and he and Brandt had talked about Hauser's wealth, but denied that he wanted to kill and rob him.

DREWS' SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT.

Drews also made a supplement statement, to correct errors in his first favorable to Wise. This was done on Monday afternoon, September 15, to his counsel, Major P. G. Mark. The essential part of it was as follows:

"The reason the confession differs so materially from my former one is that Wise asked me to call in the attorneys for Commonwealth and said I should tell them as I did, and to favor him, Wise, as the attorneys had promised him, Wise, only two years in the Eastern Penitentiary, and I could also save my life and would get the same punishment as they had promised him. Wise said I should tell the attorneys for the Commonwealth that he advised me not to drown Raber, which I did to favor him, but it was not true, for he never told me such a thing before the drowning. Brandt planned the drowning of Raber at Kitzmiller's dam, and Peters went along to drown Raber. Brandt told me of a former plan to put Raber out of the way, but I refused to do it. He also mentioned that the plank was a good place to drown Raber. Brandt had also Abraham Kreiser, of East Hanover, insured, I think in the U. B. Mutual Aid Society, and wanted also to put him out of the way, but the Society annulled the policy. He also had George Jennings, of East Hanover, insured in a Lancaster company, and told me he had a man to put him out of the way, that they would put Jennings under the ice in winter time. I have now told the truth. It has troubled me ever since my first statement, and I now feel better, as I am innocent of the crime, not having known that Stichler intended to drown Raber when he did, as I was on my way to David Kreiser's with Raber and supposed Stichler was too."

## WISE TESTIMONY IN THE ZECHMAN TRIAL.

The new trial granted to George Zechman was attached in the Court of Oyer and Terminer of Lebanon county, on Friday, November 7, 1869, the only change in counsel being the substitution of Frank Hughes, esq., of Pottsville, in place of Wm. M. Derr, esq., of Lebanon.

Henry F. Wise, one of the convicted men, was placed upon the witness stand, and after considerable legal skirmishing as to his competency as a witness, he testified, as follows:

**HENRY F. WISE, sworn.**—The defence objected to the competency of the witness, and Mr. Hughes briefly argued the matter. Wise was convicted of the murder of old Joseph Raber on the 24th of April. An accomplice may, as a rule, be called on the part of the Commonwealth but not by the defence. If sentence had been pronounced he would be incompetent on the ground of infamy. The interest the witness has in this case is his chance for pardon, and, therefore, if that interest is a tangible one, he ought to be held incompetent on the ground of interest. The defence made their objection for these reasons, first of infamy and second because an accomplice charged with felony.

The objection was overruled and an exception taken.

The defence advanced another objection, based upon the record of Wise's conviction of larceny, two counts—larceny and receiving stolen goods—at August term, 1878. There were five indictments at the same term. Part of his sentence then was that he restore the stolen goods or pay to the owner the full value thereof.

Mr. Hughes contended that witness did not fully comply with his sentence, inasmuch as he never made restitution or payment of full value. Authorities were cited to sustain the objections, showing that restitution is deemed part of the punishment of the criminal.

The Court thought the Act of Assembly quoted by defence was altogether misconstrued, saying, further, that there was nothing in the objection. An exception was taken.

Witness was sworn and examined by Mr. Hughes. He refused, under advise of Commonwealth, to answer whether he had ever stolen a turkey from Gabriel Boone. The District Attorney then said that he was the man. He was then asked whether he had restored the turkey or paid for it, to which he replied that he had offered to do so but Boone refused to take it. This offer to Boone was made before the trial for the theft; he never offered it after that. Wise said he gave his note for the costs in the turkey case. The fine he paid in money.

Wise's examination then proceeded, under oath, Mr. Miller starting by asking about the insurance, which was objected to on the ground that the policy was the best evidence. The same question being directly put concerning Zechman, the same objection was raised. He was then questioned as to whether he knew of any arrangement between himself and the others to insure Raber's life prior to December, 1878. Objected to again, Mr. Hughes contending that the witness must confine his answers to conversations with Zechman. Court sustained the Commonwealth. The witness said he knew of such arrangement, and had three conversations with Brandt, two with Zechman, and one with Hummel. The second conversation with Zechman was at Zechman's barn; Zechman said, "Henry, let us insure the man another man spoke about to you." I replied that I would have nothing to do with it, because another man had been after me for over a year to insure him, and I wouldn't do it; I wouldn't take no one's life. Zechman then said I might that way find relief from pressing debt. The witness said he wanted to go west, when Zechman told him he could realize very little on his property, and would have very little property when he got west, but if he insured some one he might have \$1,000 when he arrived west. The witness said it would be all right if no harm came of it. Zechman still urged, saying the law would only hold the man responsible who did the deed. Wise said he soon expected money, and then Zechman said if he consented he would go at once and put Raber in the U. B. Aid for \$5,000 or \$6,000. I told Zechman who the man was who first mentioned insurance and who was to work him out of the way. Brandt had asked Wise, and Drews was to murder Raber. Zechman said he would have a note discounted for \$25 in the Jones.



town bank, with Zechman's father for security. Then Zechman went to Squire Shuey to insure Raber for \$5,000 or \$6,000. That was our conversation so far as I remember. Afterwards I spoke to Zechman and he said he was with Shuey and would have Raber insured for \$5,000. This was about the latter part of July, 1878. Another time he told me that he had taken other policies on Raber in other companies. This was when Raber was examined by Dr. Umberger for a Connecticut company for \$3,000. I said to Zechman what do you mean, when he replied that he wanted to put him in right now. He also told me that he wanted Raber examined by Dr. Roedel and he would not accept him; this was to have been a Baltimore. This was when they came over to have their policies signed off, the evening they returned. Zechman, Hummel, Brandt and Raber were in Lebanon at that time. Schweinhart told me when these parties should come to Lebanon and I told them of it. Schweinhart was the agent to insure, and he lived in Lebanon. Shuey was securing agent for the U. B. Aid Society. Zechman told me that he had his policy in the Keystone company, assigned to him by Raber, in Squire Houck's office. Brandt had the same thing done with the New Era policy, and Hummel in the Home. This Zechman told me in the evening at his house. Afterwards Zechman and I had a conversation, when Schweinhart was in the cornfield with us, to the effect that I should use my influence with Schweinhart to have him get the Reading policy, because Brandt wanted it. I don't know the name of this company. The Keystone company is in Allentown county, but I don't know the place. Zechman and I were at Brandt's once, and Brandt stood with us a short distance from the house. Brandt said he didn't know how they would get the "old man" along when they went fishing, and Zechman replied that he had old Joe in good tune now, and that when they were once ready Raber would go along on the plea of getting fish for his wife; but that care should be taken that Raber got no marks on his persons. Brandt said that could easily be avoided, for all they need do is to catch Raber by the pant legs and hold him in the water until drowned. At this conversation it was understood that the drowning was to be at Kitzmiller's dam. Brandt further said when he was drowned one of them would come to me and Zechman was to go for the coroner. I said this was not necessary, because Squire Shuey was just as nice a man as we could get, but Brandt insisted that the coroner was best because he was for that purpose, which Zechman endorsed. Again, before this, on the dance floor at Brandt's we had a conversation. This was soon after the conspiracy started, and Zechman, Hummel, Brandt and myself were present. I wanted to go west to find a place to move to, and while I was away Raber was to be drowned. This was talked about between us on the dance floor. After I had found a place that suited me in the west I was to write home to my wife and tell her of it, as she requested. Then Zechman, on receipt of that letter, was to telegraph me that Raber was drowned. On my way home I was to go the Westerville, Ohio, insurance company and tell the officers of the company of the death of Raber. I was to offer to have my policy discounted for a few hundred dollars to get it cashed the sooner by the Westerville company. Drews was to drown Raber. The first offer to him was for \$500, and afterwards he was to come in as a partner with Zechman, Brandt, Hummel and myself in the insurance. Zechman once sent a message to Drews by me. He came to me on the Sunday before Raber was drowned and said I should go to Drews and tell him he should kill Raber between then and the following Friday or Saturday morning, or he would sell his Reading policy to Dave Hummel. He also said I should tell Drews that he was not able to keep up the assessments or dues on the policy. This message I delivered afterwards. On Monday evening I told Zechman that I had seen Drews, and he asked what he said, to which I replied that I had delivered his message, but at the same time told Drews not to do it. Zechman asked me why I told Drews this, and I replied that I wanted nothing to do with it, on account of what Lot Knapp said about us. He then wanted me to go again the next morning and encourage Drews to do it. I think the conversation about throwing a note into bank was between the middle of July and the 1st of August. When we met Schweinhart about the policies Zechman came from Jonestown with the money. Zechman and I had a conversation in jail, when he said that if he had only not thrown that note into the Jonestown bank no one would believe me. That was a \$10 note, and I took it in myself on November 1, to get the money for Schweinhart, who also endorsed it.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hughes.—I got my policy November 1, 1878, in the Hartford, Conn., company. When I paid my premium it was for the Westerville company, amounting to \$12; and also \$6.30 for Brandt in the Reading company. This I paid



August 8th for Brandt, with the understanding he should pay it back the following Monday. Brandt was the first man who spoke to me about the matter, and when the applications were made out he had no money, except a bill against Schweinhard, and so I advanced the money. The applications were taken out at the same time. The Westerville policy for me, the Home for Hummel, the U. B. Aid for Zechman, and the Reading policy for Brandt. These were taken out in August. For myself I paid \$42, and \$6 for Brandt. I also paid \$8 for Zechman and the same for Hummel. Dr. Capp was present when the money was paid. I paid Capp \$5 as examining physician. This took place in Schweinhard's office, near the depot. I took receipts for all these payments, Schweinhard's being one receipt for all the companies. I gave receipt to Mr. Weidman on Friday evening last. I held it in the meanwhile. All the applications were in Raber's name, and the receipts did not specify from whom the money had been received, it having been made directly to me. [Receipts identified by witness, one of which, that by Schweinhard, he pronounced wrong. Mr. Hughes also read the receipts.] I was in Lebanon alone when the money was paid for the applications, August 8th. When the examination was made at Brandt's, Dr. Capp, Brandt, Schweinhard, Raber, Ed. Ditzler and myself were present, and I think Wm. Hetrich; no others that I remember. The examination was made a few days before August 8th. Raber signed the applications, I think. I can't tell how many conversations I had with Zechman up to the drowning. I live about a mile from him. I had two conversations with him before the applications were taken out, regarding the insurance. That I take back. The second time we spoke about it I agreed with him to have the old man worked out of the way. Before I paid the application money he and I had five conversations about the matter that I know of. If I did say that Zechman and I had but two conversations about the matter I was mistaken. Wise said he had no insurance on his barn, but on furniture. There was no insurance on his barn by Harry Phillips. He continued: I give the property to Mr. Phillips as security for money advanced, and then he owned it. It was insured by Phillips about three years ago. Phillips also had the house insured, so far as I know. Last spring a year I insured my furniture. It was destroyed by fire when the house burned last year; in summer, towards spring. The barn was also burned. They were not burned at the same time. The barn was destroyed a week or so before the house. I drew the insurance money on the furniture, but not the entire amount. It was about \$225 or \$250. Some of the fire insurance money I used to pay for thinsurance on Raber's life. Before that I got \$75. When I paid the application I got \$150. Can't say how long before the house was burned down that I had my furniture insured. It was in the spring of 1878. Can't say whether the fire occurred on the 13th of June. [Proof being procured he acknowledged that that was the time.] The money I got before I spent for bed clothing. I had to buy everything new but one chaff bag. I did not move part of my furniture before the fire. Moved neither bed clothing nor gun. My brother took the gun away a few evenings before the barn burned. At the time of the fire I was at my father's. We were all there but my oldest daughter. My wife and I and five children were there. Went there every evening. After my barn burned I remained at my house only one night. Got none of the insurance on the house or barn. Mr. Phillips drew it, I think. Can't say how much was on the house or barn. The barn, I think, was insured in the Annville company. I suppose they were in the same company. My furniture was insured in Lebanon. With the first money I purchased bed clothing from A. E. Gantz, in Lebanon. About \$50 worth. My wife afterwards purchased queensware at stores around home. Can't say how much this was. She bought it at Copenhagen's and Bordner's. I furnished all the money for Raber's insurance—the first application. Lot Knapp is a neighbor of mine. I asked Zechman what Lot Knapp had said. Hummel had told me that Lot Knapp said in Shirk's smithshop that Raber was not insured to die honestly, and people should take notice. This was a week before Raber's death. Zechman replied that he didn't care what Knapp said; everybody knew who he was. I then said I'd sell my policy at the first chance because I was afraid and pitied the old man. Zechman replied, "Oh, let the old — — die, because he is too lazy to work anyhow." Lot Knapp charged me with burning my own barn, and I charged him with doing it. Hummel told me this about Knapp ten or twelve days before Raber was drowned. Lot Knapp and I had a fight in March, 1878, and after that we didn't talk together. I afterwards heard that he accused me of burning down my house, and I also heard that I was blamed for getting Zechman to do it. I



don't know who said this, but heard it through old Dave Rupp. Zechman had no insurance on my house or barn. Don't know who Rupp said this to, or who told me. Told Drews that he should not drown Raber, and after telling Zechman of this he wanted me to go back and encourage Drews to do it. When I told Zechman, Hummel was present, and he said that we "must try to beat a couple." I said, "if only Hughes would come down." [Here Court and counsel acknowledged that they were all at sea.] Zechman said I should go up the next morning and urge Drews to do it. The Hughes mentioned was Montgomery Hughes, who lived in Fishing Creek Valley. The reason Zechman sent me back to Drews was because he was anxious to have it done, and because I was concerned in it. Drews said to me that Brandt and Hummel had been with him and urged him to do it, or else he would do as I wanted. Hummel was present when Zechman asked me to go back to Drews. Live about five or six miles from Drews. Zechman lives about one mile further, and Hummel about one half mile further than Zechman, while Brandt lives only 100 yards away from him. Zechman first spoke to me about the insurance of this man. Before that he told me what he had lost in the Marietta company. At our first conversation I did not first suggest the insurance. Told him some one had been at me who had a person insured that he could get worked out of the way for \$500. While in jail I told him who the person was, and said if I had gone in with John Zattazahn and had Polly Gamble insured it never would have come out. He was curious to know this and I told him. I was not to go along to Kitzmiller's dam. No one but Drews was to go with Raber, to my knowledge. When we talked about going fishing Brandt, Zechman and I were together, near Brandt's house. Don't know when they made the plan, but Raber was to be killed while I was away out west. Never got a policy in the Westerville, Ohio, company. Thought the officers of the company would not know my circumstances. Don't know anything about insurance. Knew I had to prove Raber's death to the Westerville company, and thought my simple statement of the fact would be taken by the officers of that company, and that they would pay at once if I threw off a few hundred dollars. Knew I had to prove it, but though I could get an assurance from them that I could get my money sooner. The reason I did not want to continue in the conspiracy was because I was afraid of the penalty of the law. Zechman told me that old Ditzler had told him that they could do nothing to us provided we were not at the scene when the murder committed. I pitied the old man. Made no objection to the Kitzmiller dam project. Never went to Drews' with Zechman, cut to Brandt's, where Drews often was. Brandt sold beer, but had no license.

Cross-examined by Mr. Gobin.—In the case of Commonwealth vs. Fahler there were twelve witnesses against me and thirteen for me. Told you all about it last winter, and asked whether or not I should turn State's evidence, and you said not. Never said to any one in jail that the Commonwealth had promised I should not be punished if I testified as I am doing. Never told Henry Swalm so, but told him what you told me. Know Lew Howard and John Brandt, but never talked with them about my being a witness against Zechman. Only saw Howard once in jail, I think, and don't remember talking to him about the case. Don't know John Brandt. The first person I insured was my mother, about four years ago. Think I kept up her policy over a year. She did not die. The reason I gave up the policy was because the company was not good, and not because she compelled me. I never choked her. I insured her in the U. B. Aid, and it is good yet—kept up by Henry Phillips. Then I insured Joseph Raber, in August, 1878, but got no policy. My mother was insured in the Marietta company. Never choked her—never. Had an idea about going west for several years. We were on the dance floor after we had taken out the applications on Raber. My house and barn burned down about three weeks apart. Don't know how much Phillips had against me. The reason that I can recollect conversations with Zechman and not other matters is because these things troubled me ever since I have been in jail. Got no money from Phillips on my house and barn, and am in his debt to-day. Did not sell my mother's policy to him. He keeps it up on fair conditions. It was assigned to him soon after it was taken out. He paid me no money for it. I was not the first man who opened this subject to Drews. Never offered him half of my policy of \$300. Schweinhart had a \$500 interest in this at the start. Drews and I never made a bargain to kill Raber. Isaac Zattazahn also held a \$1,000 interest in my policy, for which he paid me nothing. This interest he acquired soon after I got it. When I found out Schweinhart was not the agent for the Westerville company I knew I could not get a policy. Am a pretty good writer.



[The following letter was then shown witness.

"this to show that you are Change your Mind Shortly in the Situation you are in or Death shall Be your doom Take heed Watch for you Know Not When the time is  
"Wm. Elliott and C. P."

[Rough sketch of a coffin.]

Did not write it, but it is written as I write. Can produce plenty who can write like I can. Can tell who wrote it. Dare not tell who did, because I promised not to. Did not write it myself. About telling, whether I wrote any part of it, I think I can do as I please. Did not write any part of it. Will not tell who wrote it. Jack Swedley and I found it in the coal stack of No. 4 colliery. We took it to William Elliott, and Jack gave it to him. This was a few years ago. In 1877 I did not work there. I worked there six or seven years. Elliot was boss of the colliery. I refuse to tell you who wrote it, and was not present when it was written. Did not swear to anything in making out death proofs. Was not sworn. Signed my name to death proof. Hummel and Brandt were sworn, when I laughed and wondered why I was not sworn. Since my conviction I made a statement to Wm. Rodearmel. Told him what Hummel and Swalm said. Don't know Asaph Light. Don't know who was with Mr. Rodearmel, if anybody. Made no confession to him. My first confession was made to the Commonwealth, and only one. These receipts I gave to Mr. Weidman last night. The confession was before sentence of death was passed, and on Friday evening I went over part of it again. When I made my confession I did not know I would not be sentenced on Monday. Mr. Miller asked me if I could swear to these things on the witness stand, and I said I could. Think Harvey Deininger told me on Sunday that I would not be sentenced. Can't say when I had my first conversation with Zechman. May have been a week or so before the conspiracy. This was at Zechman's house in the day time. We were alone. Close by the house, near a pile of planks—between garden and house. None of Zechman's family were present. He had five children at that time. No hired help. At our second conversation he told me about the man who wanted me to join an insurance job. He was the first man I conspired with to put the old man out of the way. On Saturday I said we agreed at our first conversation. Our second was at his barn, in sight of his house. Can't say whether I saw any one then. At our third conversation I think he came to me at my father's house. Went outside and talked about it. This was after he had been at 'Squire Shuey's. Can't say when our fourth and fifth conversations were held. We were often together, and it was very seldom that we didn't talk about it. Zechman was present when Dr. Capp made examination. Didn't say on Saturday that I went to Zechman to tell him when to go to Lebanon. He told me he had Raber insured in a Connecticut company. This was after Dr. Capp's examination, on the day the policies were assigned. He told me about the Baltimore company in the evening, in his house, in the presence of his family. His oldest child is seven years old. When he told about selling his policy to old Dave Hummel I don't remember whether he said he had spoken to old Dave about it. I know that he got no notices of assessments. Did not know that insurance companies allowed thirty days for the payment of assessments. Understood that after death proof thirty days were allowed. The reason that I told Drews not to do it was because I was afraid and pitied him, and then I backed out. Zechman and Hummel and I were at Brandt's; I sat on a stool on the porch, Raber near by on a settee, Zechman aside of Raber, and Hummel next to Zechman; we were talking about Raber's illness—he was ruptured; Zechman and Hummel felt his rupture, and they wanted me to do this too. I asked Raber whether it does not get any worse, and he said it did, but it didn't hurt except when he didn't get enough to eat; Zechman made lots of fun of him. I then thought to myself, as I looked at Raber, "Shall you lose your life for us," and then I pitied him first, and ever after that; the idea went against me. I never told Raber of the conspiracy against him, nor the insurance companies. Never offered to throw up my own policy, but wanted to sell it. I offered it to Wash. Hess on election day. This was after I pitied him; but on account of what Lot Knapp said, which made me afraid. I never told any officer of this conspiracy, and never talked to any one outside of those in the conspiracy. Am sure I pitied him, and that if we were discovered we might get into the penitentiary. The reason I didn't inform any law officer was because it was only confined to a few of us. Drews promised me not to do it. After Raber's death I tried to get my insurance money by making proof of death. Think any man who was interested that way would have tried to get it. Knew he was murdered. Didn't know that my action in trying to get my money would look as though I had not with-



drawn. After my barn burned down I only stayed at my house one night, because Jonathan Mease, John Mease and Harry Phillips urged me to go away if I knew what was good for me; two men who were not to be trusted were against me. The reason I moved from my house was not because I had moved away my furniture; that is a lie. Never asked a settlement with Phillips after my house and barn were burned. After Zechman told me to go up to Drews to tell him to do it, he also said I should go up to Hughes. By "beating a couple," meant that Hughes wanted to buy some counterfeit money, and we were ready to sell it to any one. My mother is 66 years old, and I am 34 years, 5 months and 6 days old to-day. Made no written confession to Wm. Rodearnel. Don't think he wrote it down. Don't know if any one was present. It was made in jail. Didn't send for him—he was a reporter. When Zechman sent me to Drews I spoke to Drews both in the house and outside, but didn't speak to him in the house about killing Raber. Lena was inside when we spoke about it. We were near the gate. Lena was sitting inside on the bed when we left the house. That is the only place I spoke to Drews about Zechman's message and my own advice not to do it. Our position may have been about 24 feet away from the house. Lena sat at the window on the side we stood. We spoke in an ordinary tone of voice. There was no one near us. Didn't see Stichler there. Heard what Knapp said a week before this. Didn't ask Frank Stichler and Mines Brandt to shoot Knapp; never in life; didn't go there for that purpose. Never promised Frank Stichler \$10 to take a false oath against George Schwalm; Brandt done this. Ed. King never help me to remove my household furniture: only a few stands, kegs and other stuff we had in the cellar. Didn't pay Frank Stichler \$25 to set my barn on fire, and I never offered it to him. When my barn was burned my brother and I were with John Rule. King did not want me to watch for the incendiary and I never did; neither did he ever offer to do so, but think he said something about watching after the fire. Never tried to get George Schwalm to shoot a doctor. Remember seeing Lew Howard and John Brandt in jail last winter, but never told Brandt that I never told Drews anything as to what Zechman had said to me; we might have talked about those matters.

By Mr. Miller.—Zechman is my first cousin, and he farmed my land when this conspiracy started, and farmed it until after corn was taken away. We were sitting on the porch at Brandt's when we felt Raber's rupture, about a month and a half before the murder. There was no promise made to me by the Commonwealth to get me to testify, but, on the contrary, told me there was nothing could save me and I had to die; then I said if I must die, I have no rest night or day, and it must all come out. The first applications for Raber's insurance were taken at Brandt's a few days before I paid the money. Drews came to me at night to tell me Schweinhart was at Brandt's, and Zechman and Stichler should come up; we were to be there at 9 o'clock next morning. Went to bed and arose about 4 o'clock, went and told Zechman, who could not go along, as he had prepared to haul manure for Mr. Wolf. Went to Brandt's alone, but Zechman said I should tell the agent to take out a good application for him on Raber's life in a good company. He had been with Shuey before that, and Shuey told him he could not get a policy on Raber's life in the U. B. Mutual Aid Society.

Cross-examined by Mr. Gobin.—Zechman built a new barn last summer and needed money for that.

#### MRS. CHARLES DREWS' TESTIMONY IN THE ZECHMAN TRIAL.

MRS. CHARLES DREWS was called and objected to by the defence on the ground that there is an application for the reprieve of Charles Drews, husband of the witness, and one of the defendants; also because of her incompetency. Overruled and exceptions taken. She was then sworn and examined as follows:

I lived close by Brandt's last summer and fall. Know Zechman when I see him. Know Brandt a long time. Know Hummel and Wise, the latter since he was a boy. Saw all these together at Brandt's several times, but can't tell how often—pretty often though. They often sent for my husband when they were together, but he never told me what they wanted. Knew Raber a long time. They never told me what they were to pay to have Raber murdered, but in my presence Wise told my husband that he should hurry kill Raber because Zechman could no longer keep up his policy. Wise said to my husband he should drown Raber. Brandt said if my husband did not work Raber out of the way he would kill my husband; this he said in my presence. Brandt said to Lena, my daughter, in my presence, that if it were not for her Raber would have been worked out of the way long before; this was about two weeks before the drowning. I saw all these men, except the defendant, at Brandt's about eight days before the

drowning. I saw him there a month before Raber was drowned. Can't say whether I saw him there two months before. Within three months of the drowning I saw him about two or three times at Brandt's with the others and my husband.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hughes.—Brandt came for my husband and sometimes his boy. He lives close to us—in speaking distance. When Wise came to see my husband he never said anything about not drowning Raber, but he told him that he should drown him. The time that I saw Zechman, Wise and Hummel at Brandt's there were other people there, and sometimes no others, but I don't know who the other people were.

Cross-examined by Mr. Gobin.—Wise spoke to my husband in the house. Always came into the house. My husband sometimes went over to Brandt's house with him. The last time Brandt was at our house was within a week or two before the murder. When Wise told my husband about hurrying up the drowning Brandt came into the house and then the three went away together. Wise did speak this in the house in the presence of my family. Brandt was not in when Wise told my husband to hurry up the drowning. They went right over to Brandt's without stopping. It was about 9 or 10 o'clock in the morning. Don't know whether Lena was in or not. Only knew Zechman last summer. He was never in our house. When Wise was there I never heard him say anything about sharing his policy with my husband. He was there about half an hour. That was not the last time Wise was at our house. He was there afterwards, at day and night, and always urged my husband to drown Raber.

#### THE VERDICT IN THE ZECHMAN TRIAL.

The new trial of George Zechman was concluded on Thursday morning, Nov. 13, at 9 o'clock, the jury bringing in a verdict of "Not Guilty," after deliberating upon his case since noon of the preceding day. He was promptly discharged by order of the Court.

## EXECUTION OF DREWS AND STICHLER.

On Friday, Nov. 14, 1879, Charles Drews and Frank Stichler were hung for the murder of old Joseph Raber, committed on the 7th of December, 1878, by drowning in Indiantown Creek. The execution took place in the Lebanon jail yard, in the presence of about 150 persons, to whom tickets had been issued, to say nothing of a large number who witnessed it from every available point of advantage in the neighborhood. Long before the hour fixed for the execution, curious, morbid-minded people made the neighborhood of the prison the common centre of their girations, so as to be in at the death if possible, and if that can not be, to be able to say to their descendants in after years that they attended, if they did not witness, the execution of Charles Drews and Frank Stichler, the only dual hanging that had ever taken place in Lebanon county. That there were more of the latter than the former in the crowd in town is not much to be wondered at, when the size of the jail yard is taken into consideration, for Sheriff Deininger, prompted by that liberal and generous spirit which is a ruling passion of his life, tried to accommodate all he could consistent with propriety.

While there have not been many executions in Lebanon, this being only the third since the formation of the county, there has at least, judged by the record, been no lack of material out of which to supply the leading character in such tragedies, and the public mind, if not fully satisfied on this point, has very often been on the "ragged edge" of expectancy. The case from which the execution under consideration springs, has of itself furnished such a record of crime of all sorts that might almost make a new settlement in the "land of the Dakotahs" or any other Indian country, where the shot gun and bloody knife are the powers that be, fairly turn green with envy. But, in behalf of the good name of the "Little Star that never sets" we would have it understood that the region infested by the band of thieves and murderers who act a leading part in the Raber case is but a small and insignificant portion, indeed, of our fertile little county. It is the rugged borderland between fertility and sterility, between the spot where God's green earth is made to bloom as the rose and the land of black diamonds; where the chief substance of the people is wrenched from the regions of Pluto. But while we are digressing in this manner, the fingers of time go creeping, wj h the creeping hours, and the hour of the execution draws nigh. Everything indicates this. A still and sombre air is brooding over the jail—the cells on the east side



being crowded to spare the prisoners as much as possible from the racking, grating sounds of the instrument of death, while on the part of the spectators the terrible realities of the execution become more and more apparent as they mark the slow approach of grim visaged Death. The first indication of this was the arrival of ministers of the Gospel to sustain the condemned men in their last trial on earth. This was about 9 o'clock, when Revs. Trabert, Light, Johnston and Shaeffer entered the jail proper. From this time on the corridor resounded with the echo of prayer and praise first in the cell of each of the men alone. In Stichler's cell the holy sacrament was administered and other services held, during which Stichler offered up a very feeling prayer in German, manifesting a full consciousness of his condition and showing a peaceful frame of mind.

While this was being done, Drews took advantage of the opportunity to pass around the jail, visit all of his companions in imprisonment, and gave them a final farewell. This he did in a happy mood apparently, but when he found Wise, the informer, in cell No. 4, on the lower floor, in company with a number of other prisoners, he had to undergo a searching examination from him on points calculated to corroborate Wise's previous assertions. This Drews was at first disposed to accede to, until he found Wise's questions of rather too dictatorial a nature, when he cut the conversation short. Wise, however, failed to secure a single corroborative assertion from Drews, and he was left discomfited, but with an understanding of forgiveness between them. The work of farewell having now be finished, he proceeded to the upper tier of cells, went into Stichler's cell, where the religious services had in the meanwhile ceased, and together they enjoyed a smoke and brief conversation, Drews having furnished the cigars for both. Before they had smoked away their care and sorrow, they were called upon by the sheriff's assistants to have their measures taken, so as to ascertain the precise amount of fall necessary when they fell through the drop. This was a terrible earnest of what was to follow, and it was plain that they realized and closely watched the systematic arrangement for their ignominious death in all its horrid details. This duty was performed by Major Ernst, of Harrisburg, doubtless on the principle that it is better to prevent mistakes than to correct them.

After this, solemn and impressive services were had in Drews' cell, both the condemned being present, with the addition of Rev. Brownmiller, of Union Deposit, with the ministers. Here prayer and praise worship continued from about 10 o'clock up to the arrival of the sheriff, announcing that all was in readiness for the execution. The hymns sung in German and English were "Grace be with you," "Soon be over there," with others calculated to inspire thoughts of the other world. Drews and Stichler joined heartily in these impressive ceremonies. Among the last acts in this cell was the farewell between the sheriff's family, notably his esteemed wife and little ones, who by their universal kind treatment had won the highest regard of the condemned men.

At 10.45 a loud voice rang through the corridor, intended as a general notice to all concerned that they should prepare themselves for the execution, and five minutes after the services which had been so heartily yet calmly conducted in Drews' cell, were concluded, ending with one of Moody and Sankey's hymns about trials and temptations, the sentiment of which was expressive and the effect apparent. The procession was speedily formed, all having been prepared for the dread summons, and the march to the scaffold was taken up, with the sheriff and his deputy at the head, followed by Revs. Light and Trabert, the latter reading a form of invocation. Drews and Stichler side by side came next, with Revs. Johnston and Shaeffer in the rear, and they followed by Dr. Lineaweaver, the prison physician, and others. When they reached the platform of the gallows the two condemned men stood for a few moments with hands folded, and manifesting as yet not the slightest signs of fear or trepidation. The services, which were most solemnly conducted, were opened by Rev. Dr. Johnston reading the 14th chapter of Job. While this was being done he faced the prisoners, the striking tableau being completed with Revs. Light and Trabert standing respectively behind Stichler and Drews, and Rev. Shaeffer on the steps. A very slight rain was falling at this time, not enough, however, to prevent those nearest the gallows from uncovering their heads in holy reverence, but at the same time affording ample opportunity for sentimental notes about the tears of heaven, &c. Stichler continued muttering silent prayers invoking the grace and mercy of the High Court above. A German hymn was then read by Rev. Light, in which the prisoners joined in singing. Rev. Trabert then offered up a prayer in German, all kneeling, Drews following the same language as near as possible, while Stichler seemed to throw his whole heart and soul into the

prayer he offered, looking heavenward with a fixed gaze as if seeking to penetrate the veil of the future. It was a scene long to be remembered and visibly affected many who stood by. The court house clock struck the hour of eleven as they all joined in repeating the Lord's Prayer. Rev. Light then read the English hymn, "A Fountain Filled with Blood from Emanuel's Veins." The ceremony or services on the gallows ended with a fervent prayer in English by Rev. J. T. Shaeffer, concluding with blessing and benediction. The ministers of God then gave good-bye and left the gallows, to have their places promptly taken by ministers of the law, whose first act was to change the positions of the men, placing Drews to the east and Stichler to the west. Others in the crowd at this point ascended the gallows or extended their hands in a last good bye, Drews saying he went freely and crying out with a wave of the hand, "Good-bye to all." Sheriff Deininger's turn came next, and he was warmly greeted by both, thanking him most heartily for his uniform kindness as they bid him good-bye. Their legs and arms were then pinioned by stout straps. Stichler, who was the last one bound, being engaged in silent prayer all the while. The rope was first adjusted around Drews' neck and the white cap drawn over his head, and as they were performing the same operation on Stichler, Drews cried out, "Frank, now we go to heaven! now we go! oh, Father, help!" The fatal blow was struck, and before it was repeated both the men trembled all over like aspen leaves for a moment before they shot through the trap and were launched into eternity. Neither struggled except a slight drawing up of the feet of Stichler. The trap fell at 11:08 o'clock; the pulse of Stichler ceased to beat at 11:13, and Drews' at 11:19, while their heart pulsations stopped simultaneously at 11:21, when they were pronounced dead and cut down at 11:40. Stichler's rope slipped, and he was strangled, while Drews' neck was broken. Their bodies were placed in very plain coffins, furnished by the Directors of the Poor. Drews was buried on Mt. Lebanon Cemetery, and Stichler in the garden at his father's house, in Indiantown Gap.

The gallows was erected on the spot occupied by the Spattenhuber gallows. Its dimensions from cross beam to floor were 12 feet 2 inches; its width,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet; depth, 8 feet; trap or platform,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet square; and from ground to platform was 5 feet 2 inches. It was painted lead color.

The jury selected by the sheriff to pass upon the death of the two men, as prescribed by law, consisted of Messrs. J. J. Newhard, F. B. Boashore, Jerome Weber, J. H. Speck, Simon M. Crall, Geo. T. Capp, Oliver Henry, Samuel Houck, Wm. Reist, C. P. Steinmetz, A. L. Kreider and D. C. Elliott.

A large number of persons witnessed the execution, probably 200, but in order to avoid confusion they were not permitted to enter the jail yard until 10:13. This opportunity was improved by all in investigating every corner of the jail and interviewing prisoners.

## LAST CONFESSIONS.

### CHARLES DREWS.

Charles Drews, the oldest of the murderers, was 39 years old. A full history of his life will be found in his last confession, which was written by himself in the German language, especially for the *LEBANON DAILY TIMES*, and translated by a German scholar, without destroying the phraseology. It was given under seal, to be published after his execution. In personal appearance he was tall and well knit, possessing a remarkably fine constitution. His face always wore a solemn and profound expression. His head was entirely bald, excepting a fringe of light hair. He weighed about 180 pounds, enjoyed good health, and felt as young as a man of twenty.

"Here is the history of my whole life. I was born in the year 1820, the 9th day of July, in the country of Schleswig Holstein, Germany. I was raised with my parents. They sent me to school regular from six to sixteen years, and when I stopped school I was confirmed as a Lutheran, but the minister of my place would have liked to have me in the church because I was a good singer, but my father would not allow this, for he wanted me to learn a trade; but I stayed with the minister a while so I could have my place in church on Sunday for to sing in the choir, and after that I learned butchering, which took me five years to learn; and after that I tramped through the country, and five years after that I returned to my home again and stayed with my parents. I



then became a soldier in the war for two years, and after that I made up my mind to go to America, but my parents would not have this because I was the only son. I had a sister also. So one year passed by yet and then my father made up a sum of money which was \$800, and sent me to Hamburg. From there I made a contract for America, which was \$34. The 16th of March, 1852, the ship sailed for Hamburg, England and Hull, where I landed, and then I took the railroad for Liverpool. There I lay three days, and then my money was stolen, and then I sailed for America. I arrived at New York on May 4, 1852, without any money or friends. I went to a hotel and explained the matter to the landlord, and he kept me until I got work. I stayed there three days and then I met a farmer from Long Island who gave me work at \$5 the first month and the second \$12. But I only stayed there three months, and then I journeyed on foot to Pennsylvania as far as Harrisburg and then my money was gone; and then I looked for work, and the same time they were building a double track railroad between Harrisburg and Middletown, and I got work there immediately. I got my board at the Half-Way House, between Harrisburg and Middletown. I worked there 44 days, and then I worked 20 nights beside, making in all 64 days—and I got as much for working nights as days. And when pay day came the boss went away, and that was the last I saw of him; and then I went to Harrisburg, my clothes were all torn, and I had my shoes strapped to my feet. I then left Harrisburg, but did not know which way to go. At last I met a man on the way and I asked him where this road leads to; he said to Lebanon, but I did not go there for I had been there before and found no work, and that man was a tramp the same as I was. He told me to sit down, and so we took lunch together, and he also had a bottle with brandy, so we took some, and before we started he told me I will give you another drink if you will carry my bundles for me; and so we started out, and after we had gone for a mile we met some men on horseback—but I do not know how many they were—and they stopped us and cried out that we stole. But I was frightened and did not know what to say. They took us along to a farm and then to Lebanon to the jail, and when I arrived at Lebanon one of the men jumped out of the carriage and left me alone with the bundles, and I had to go to jail, but had no punishment except to pay the costs. At that time Mr. Fisher was sheriff, and Fegan, of Annville, was deputy sheriff—the time when the prison wall fell down. But that time I had more liberty than now because I could go to any place, for I was not guilty. I worked at building the wall up and earned some money. And at that time there was a mason for whom I worked then, and then I bought good clothes, and from there I went to the Coleman Furnace and worked there one year and bought myself very good clothes, and I have the dress coat to-day yet at home which tailor Kimmel made in the year 1853. It is 26 years old. From there I went to Schuylkill county and procured work there at the Stanhope Furnace. There I was about five years, and then I married a Kreiser's daughter. Then I moved away from there to my wife's father, in Union township, Lebanon county, for her parents were old and no person in the house. Then I worked on a farm, which I liked. In the winter I chopped wood for the Weidman's, Union Forge, Light's Forge, and New Maaket Forge. And so I worked there until the year 1861. In September of the same year I enlisted in the Ninety-Third Regiment, in Lebanon, and I fought through all the battles, and I became a flag carrier. Then at Harrison's Landing, in 1863, I re-enlisted for during the war. I came home and then I bought a house and four acres of land for \$700. I paid \$600 cash, and then I moved there with my wife; and then I bought a cow yet, and then I went to war again. When I was in war again for one month, I received a letter from a friend of mine that my wife was dishonest—that she was living with another man. But I could not believe this, so I wrote to my wife and she wrote back to me that it was not true. And when the war was ended I came home well and with a pocket full of money, \$300, so I thought I could pay the balance on my house and farm, but I found different when I came home. My wife had made so many debts that I did not know what to do. But it was my own fault. I told the people to give her anything she wants and I would pay them. One person came for \$50, and another for \$100, and so on until my money was gone. This made me feel uneasy, for I could not pay the balance on my house and farm. I felt very uneasy about it, and I could not work, so I sold my farm and house to pay my debts. I commenced work again, but it would not go, for the trouble was always before my eyes. In the year 1870 I moved over the mountains called the Indiantown Gap. I lived four years in one house. In 1871 Mr. Brandt came there and moved in the house next to me. I never knew him before, but he appeared to be a good companion

and so we got acquainted with each other. And then he told me he knows a good place to steal chickens, and asked me whether I would go along, and I told him that I never stole anything yet; but he told me to go along, that he stole there several times already, and we went along and we got eight chickens. Four were his and four were mine. And the way was that I had to pass my house first, and as I went to give the chickens to my wife she asked me where I got them, and I said I stole them and then she said she would not clean them, so I gave them all back to Brandt. And if I would have listened to my wife it would have gone all right with me, but Brandt always misled me. So it was good until the corn was ripe, and he told me that he always steals enough to last him a while for his pig, and asked me whether I wouldn't go along. So I went along, and then he told me a whole gang go out to steal at night, but I could not believe that at first, but then I found out it was true. And after that Brandt told me he was insuring now and whether I would not help to insure Joseph Raber. And he said he would be a good substitute. And he said he would work him out of the way and nobody would find it out, and then he would get a large sum of money. And he asked me whether I would not help to insure him, but I told him that I do not want to have anything to do with it, and I did not have so much as to go into it. So Brandt and ——— insured Raber, and at that time Brandt wanted to put Raber out of the way already. He wanted me to help him, but I would not do it. So at last the friendship broke up. Brandt insured A. Kreiser at the same time, and wanted to put him out of the way also, but his companions put him out again. So he insured George Jennings. Brandt and another person had him heavy insured, and wanted another person to put him out of the way. They wanted to put him under the ice in winter time, but the company broke up and it went all to nothing. Now it was for a long time quiet, but Brandt studied how to make money without working, so he thought it best to insure Raber again. And at the same time Henry Wise was around there much. They had many secrets together, I saw myself, but I never found out anything of their secrets. Henry Wise was there often until midnight. And one day the insurance agent came there, which was George Schweinhard, but I did not know him, and what they were speaking about I don't know, but I found out that much that Brandt wanted to insure Joe Raber. I was sitting before Brandt's door one day and Brandt came to me half drunk, and we were speaking together about different things the Brandt said, "Charley, you can earn a big sum of money if you will do as I tell you, but you must not tell any one." Then he said you and I are poor, we will insure Joe Raber and you get him out of the way. I will give you \$300. He said I can earn that easy, and after that he treated to beer and we drank several times, and then we went home and drank again, and then we kept speaking a while, and then he told me how to do with Raber. He told me to take Raber along fishing to Kitzmiller's dam, and throw him in the water, go and tell Mike Kohr that Raber fell into the dam and drowned and then no person would know that he is out of the way. But then I told Brandt that he could do this just as well as I. Then Brandt said it would not suit for him. So I said it would not suit for me either, and then we parted for the evening. Before I left he gave me two drinks. But then I went back again to Brandt and he asked me about the matter again. Then he asked me whether I had made up my mind to put Raber out of the way, and I said no. Then Brandt said he knows three men yet that would insure Raber if I would put him out of the way. I said to Brandt it is a very hard thing to murder a man cold-blooded. Then he said that I wouldn't see it if I would put him in deep water. Brandt then treated again, and I asked him who the three men were that wanted to insure Raber. He said that he wouldn't tell, but "they will be here next week at my house and you can speak with them yourself." Then he treated again and I went home. The next week the three men came, and they were Henry Wise, George Zechman and Josiah Hummel. I then went to Brandt's house to see who the men were. They had a long conversation with Brandt, but I do not know what it was about. After they left Brandt asked me whether I knew those men. I said I know Henry Wise, but not the other two men. Then he said those were the men that want to insure Raber. I asked who they were, and Brandt said Hummel and Zechman, they live down at the big dam. Then Brandt asked me whether they spoke to me about the matter and I said no they did not. In a short time, about one week after that, George Schweinhard came there to Brandt's in the evening, between 7 and 8 o'clock, and he had another man with him named ——— and also old Ed. Ditzler, and I don't know how many more persons. I heard Schweinhard ask whether Henry Wise was there, said he must see him, and would pay \$1 if some person would go for



him. Then I said if he would pay me cash I would do it. Schweinhard then wrote a letter which I took to Wise. It was 10 o'clock when I started, and when I came to Wise's house he opened the letter but he did not tell me anything about it, and Wise said that he could not come to-night but would come early to-morrow morning. Then I told him to give me a few lines to show that I was at his house, and he wrote on the same letter a few lines stating that I was there, and then I went back to Brandt's again about 3 o'clock in the morning. When I came back Schweinhard and Brandt were there, and when I asked for my money he did not know anything about it, and then Ed. Ditzler gave me 50 cents and ——— gave me 50 cents, and then I went home to bed. In the morning Henry Wise came, and what he and Schweinhard were speaking about I don't know, but in a few days Wise came again, but to my house, and asked me about the matter, whether it is as Brandt stated that I was to put Raber out of the way, and he said he would insure Raber and would pay just as much as Brandt, and Brandt promised me \$300 if I would put Raber out of the way; but I did not promise that I would do it, for it is a hard thing to do. Then Wise said he would give me \$300 also if I would put him out of the way, but I did not promise him. After a short time they all met again, and then Brandt called for me I should come to his house. I went over and they treated and they wanted to get me drunk. I drank three times and then I went home, and in the afternoon Brandt called for me again. I went there, and then Hummel asked me, as much as he understands, they are five that want to insure Raber. I said I do not know how many, but Brandt said he belongs to them, and then I said I have no money to insure Raber. Zechman did not say anything to me about it. Then I did not hear anything for a time, and some time after that Wise came to my house, but he did not come in, he stopped at the gate and asked whether I was at home. I went out to him, and he asked whether I would put Raber out of the way now as soon as we had our policy ready. I told him I do not want to have anything to with it. Then Wise said he would give me half of the policy and Hummel and Zechman would each give me \$500; and then, they said, I would have money enough and I could go west. I wanted to go west, but to get Raber out of the way is a very hard thing. I said I would not have anything to do with it. Then Wise went to Brandt's house and stayed until night, but I told him that the other two did not say anything about the matter. Went to Brandt's house one evening, and he said he had something to tell me; he said, "you must put Raber out of the way or else we will get another person that will do it, and we will either in day or night shoot you so that you could not make it known." Then after that Wise came to me and said, "you have only two weeks time yet, and it must be done in that time;" and Brandt said so also. Did not know what to do, because my life was in danger, so at last I got Peters, and we went together with Raber to Kitzmiller's dam; but it was Raber's will to go there, for he wanted to get some fish for Zechman's wife, she was sick that time. That was Peters' will also to go there, for Brandt had told him everything about it. So we went on, and when we reached the dam I pitied Raber, and said to him we will go home it is too cold to fish, and then we went home and Brandt asked me what we were about for bringing Raber back again. Told him that I pitied him and could not drown him, then Brandt began to swear, but do not like to mention what he said; and he said that I do not intend to drown him, but I should have left Peters' will and then he would have drowned him, and that if I would not put him out of the way until Saturday they would have me out of the way mighty soon. What should I do? Then I asked Frank Stichler if he could drown Raber, and he said he could drown any man, but I think he had been put up to it before because he was so willing to do it, and he was one of his stealing companions. He was living with Brandt, but I can not tell how long he was there, but think two months. So it went on until Saturday, the 7th of December. Went for Raber myself—he came himself. He wanted some flour for over Sunday, but could not give it to him, because he came too often for such things and he could never pay in return for them again, and I am a poor man too and have a large family. He asked me if I had any tobacco for him over Sunday, so I gave him a piece to last him, for I did not think that he was to be drowned. Raber said he must have some flour yet, so he thought he would go to Peter Kreiser and there he could get some; and then Raber went out, and Stichler said to me we will go along to J. Kreiser. So we went on; I first, Raber second, and Stichler third; and when we got to the water Stichler got Raber by the legs and threw him in the water, and got on him, and held him down until life was extinct, and I went back again to the fence. That I can prove

with Peters that I did not help drown him. I would not have gone along if I did not want to save my life. Then I went up to Brandt and told him that Raber was drowned, and Stichler went to my house to put on some dry clothing. Brandt then said to me if people ask about it I should say I saw him fall and went in to help him but Raber was drowned already. I was to say to the jury, and that Brandt went for people, and when they came they let him lay. Then Brandt went to Lebanon to get the coroner's jury, and they came the next morning and pulled him out of the water and examined him, but could not find anything; and then I swore as Brandt told me to do. After this was all over they—Brandt, Hummel, Wise and Stichler—were always together. And then they made a death proof the same as Schweinhard saw behind the shed. And Stichler said that he must have it to-day yet. That was the money which I had promised him—\$100. They were to give him all they promised me, for he had done it all alone. They were on my side then, and Brandt did not speak much to me, and Stichler went back on me, and Wise came to me afterward to take me to the mountains to go hunting. I forgot to mention that Hummel came to me to go to Zechman to get some money, but that was after Raber's death. But I did not go, for I was afraid. I was to go by the way of Rankstown or go to the mountain. But I knew better than that—I did not go. Even in jail they were not good to me if I would speak about these things. They would say let that German "dummerwetter" alone, do not speak to him. But I told them in the beginning that I would tell the whole story. Then they explained to me how we might get through—that was Brandt and Wise, the others did not have much to say. Then Wise said he could get poison into jail and put it into my eatings, then I would be out of the way, or else I would tell anyhow. This Hummel and Zechman told me again. Now you can judge how I was in danger. I do not think that I am guilty the way they have made it to me. I will willingly take punishment, but not to hang.

CHARLES DREWS.

#### FRANK STICHLER.

The last confession of Frank Stichler was written on 58 sheets of foolscap paper, and given to the LEBANON DAILY TIMES, under seal, for publication after his execution. After reciting in a general way the manner in which he was first led into thieving, and giving the names of those who led him into temptation—some of whom are now in jail and others at large—he gives a detailed account of his misdeeds, which were summarized, under his own captions:

*False Swearing.*—Wise wanted Frank and Elijah Stiehler and David Kreiser to swear falsely in a meat and chicken stealing, which he did, and he now hopes God will forgive him for it.

*About the Murder.*—Last December he was standing in Brandt's bar room, when Brandt told him he wanted a man put out of the road, for which he would give Frank a note for \$200 with good security, but he did not mention the victim's name. He says that Brandt and another man told him that if this murder worked they would insure some more of those old people and put them out of the way.

*Threats.*—Brandt said that if William Dutter and Daniel Fitting did not stop calling their party thieves their houses and barns must be destroyed by fire.

*About Wheat.*—One day Stiehler and M—— went to Rankstown and on their return home stole a lot of wheat and a pair of driving lines from Peter Rhoads.

*Eggs.*—Stiehler, Brandt, and several others, robbed Wm. Dotter of a large number of eggs, and shared them share and share alike at Ed. ——'s house—Brandt retaining Stichler's share, and hid them in Brandt's garden.

*More Wheat.*—Brandt, Stichler, and some more of their companions stole about four bushels of wheat from Dressler, and after much tribulation they succeeded in getting away with it, not, however, until T—— had been captured.

*About Felty's Chickens.*—One night Brandt, Stichler, Wise, and some more, robbed Wm. Felty of 30 chickens and 4 geese—of which Brandt retained Stichler's share. This little transaction led to their arrest.

*About a Sheep.*—Brandt, Stichler, and E—— stole a sheep from Peter Rupp. They took it to Brandt's cellar, where Drews butchered it, and then shared it—Brandt retaining two shares. Another night a party again visited Peter Rupp and stole a sheep which was butchered in the same place and disposed of in the same manner.



*About a Steer.*—One day Frank and Brandt met Peter Rupp's cattle. They succeeded in driving one into Brandt's stable, where they kept it until evening, when they killed and shared it—Drews being the butcher. The horns, hide, &c., they buried.

*About a Sheep.*—Wise, Frank, and a companion, one night stole a sheep from Henry Shoop. This was also killed in Brandt's cellar.

*Ducks and Geese.*—Brandt, —, and Stichler stole a lot of geese and ducks from Speck, and on the following Sunday all hands had a royal feast at Brandt's house.

*Sweet Potatoes.*—The same night, while the other party were after poultry, Wise and another man stole a lot of sweet potatoes from John Trout. While the feast was in progress, John happened to drop into Brandt's and was invited to partake, which he did with a relish. He enjoyed the sweet potatoes immensely.

*Chickens and Corn.*—Frank and several companions went to Spang's for chickens, and on their way home incidentally took in Ed. Hughes' barn, where they captured about half a bushel of corn. That night Elias Nye's hay stack furnished fodder for their horse. When they returned to Brandt's with their plunder, they unloaded and started for Peter Rupp's poultry yard, but were chased off by the dogs. Drews had a hand in this expedition.

*Another Steer.*—One day Drews was "viewing the land," when he discovered a herd of fine young cattle. This was duly reported to Brandt, when he ordered Drews and E—— to go for a steer. They succeeded in driving it to Brandt's shed, where they butchered and shared it, burying the offal as before. Brandt, as usual, kept Frank's share. The steer belonged to Daniel Nye.

*More Chickens.*—One night Frank, Brandt and Drews stole 14 or 15 chickens from Mr. Wymau. Shared as usual. Another night they went to Kreiser's and stole all his chickens. Kreiser afterwards told Stichler of his loss, but it was no news to Frank. On another occasion they robbed Jos. Nine. Brandt kept the fruits of this trip himself, Stichler, however, helping to eat them.

*More Fresh Beef.*—One day last winter, Brandt told Stichler that his meat stand needed replenishing, and butchering was in order. After roaming through the woods in search of Tom Nye's hogs, they finally stumbled across John Moonshine's cattle. They succeeded in catching a steer, which they fastened to a tree with a hickory withe. Brandt then brought Charley Drews with the butchering tools, when they killed it. Charley took half of the steer, Brandt the other half, and ——— got the liver.

*Corn.*—One night a party started from the "St. Joseph Springs Hotel" on a chicken stealing expedition to Peter Rupp's, but the chickens roosted on apple trees and flew off. They then went into the cornfield and commenced gathering corn. Mr. Rupp came up the field and the party took to their heels. One of the party then fired a gun into the air, and at the trial in April, Mr. Rupp said that Frank had fired at him, which Stichler denies.

*Mountain Fire.*—In the spring of 1879 Frank and a relative set fire to Peter Rupp's woods. This fire was discovered and extinguished, when Frank again set it on fire in three different places.

*The Centennial Trip.*—One night in 1876 Stichler robbed his father of all the money he had in his pockets and went down the valley to Swatara Gap, where he took the cars for Tower City, and from there he went to Lykens, Harrisburg, and then to Philadelphia, where he stayed several days, and then came back to Lebanon. While going toward Colebrook he was arrested and lodged in jail, and on the following Saturday his father came and took him home. He had only five cents in money when arrested.

*ABOUT HENRY HAUER.*—Israel Brandt wanted Frank Stichler and ——— to kill Henry Hauer, but they refused to do it that time, but shortly afterward they started to do it, but a short distance this side of Kreiser's coal house they met some persons, and then they turned back without doing the deed. One Saturday morning Frank started alone before daybreak and went to Hauer's. Just as he got there Hauer left the house, when Frank went down, cut a pane of glass out, where he secured a little money and some few miscellaneous articles. After he arrived at headquarters he and Brandt shared all of the plunder. Penrose Drews was sent for whisky and a jolly good time was had. Brandt on another occasion wanted Frank to shoot Henry Hauer and place him on the bed and set it on fire, so that people might think the house caught fire through Hauer smoking his pipe in bed. He was to rob the house of the best things and Brandt would dispose of them. The money he got in the robbery of the house amounted to between four and five dollars.

*APPLEBUTTER, HONEY AND CHICKENS.*—Frank, Brandt and Benjamin — went to

John Trout's one Sunday evening, and after effecting an entrance through a window they stole a lot of applebutter, which they took to Brandt's and shared. On another night they visited John Trout's and stole a number of his chickens. They also despoiled John of two hives of bees and confiscated the honey. One night they organized a party to steal Thomas Gerberich's bee hives, but were frightened off, and came back to Brandt's empty-handed, after a walk of about 9 miles.

**MORE POULTRY.**—Brandt, Frank and John — one day started for Lebanon. They took with them five turkeys, two of which they sold to the Valley House, one to Col. Gobin, one to Wm. Reinhard, and one to Joseph Shantz. They started for home about 10 o'clock, and on the road they made an attack on every chicken coop they came across, securing a miscellaneous assortment of turkeys, chickens, geese and ducks, which they shared at Brandt's house.

**COUNTERFEIT MONEY.**—Frank and John S—— were attending court at Lebanon, when S—— gave Stichler a counterfeit \$5 bill, which he got changed at a place out on Lehman street. In the afternoon he passed another of the bills at the same place. He gave his confederate only \$2.50 out of the \$10.

On various occasions they stole chickens, meat and corn from Jacob Devan, Peter Rhoads, John Moonshine, Thomas Light, Henry Kreiser, George Rhen, Peter Rupp, Thomas Nye, George Stuckley, Felix Kreiser, Edward Shuey, Henry Speck, and a number of others. They generally had a feast on Sunday or in the evening, either at Brandt's or Drews' house, and lived off the fat of the land.

In conclusion Frank says expressly that it was not his parents' fault that he was to die on the gallows.

## THE BOARD OF PARDONS.

Having failed in every quarter, the Board of Pardons was appealed to by Brandt, Hummel and Wise, as a last resort to save their necks from the gallows. The Board met in regular session at Harrisburg, on the 16th of March, 1880, when all were to appeal for a commutation of the death sentence to imprisonment for life. Insufficient testimony to convict was the ground for the application of Brandt and Hummel, and Wise based his chances upon the plea that he had been used by the Commonwealth in the new trial of Zechman.

Wise's appeal was heard through his counsel, A. Frank Seltzer, esq., at the time appointed, but the Board refused to interfere in his behalf.

Owing to a misunderstanding in not having given sufficient public notice of their intention to appeal, as required by the rules, the cases of Brandt and Hummel were not heard on the same day with Wise, and went over until the next meeting of the Board.

In the meanwhile, however, the Governor appointed the 13th day of May, 1880, for the execution of the three. The death arrants were read to them to that effect on the 30th of March, when Brandt and Hummel again warmly protested their innocence.

Brandt and Hummel's cases were presented before the Board on the 20th of April, by their counsel, J. P. S. Gobin, esq., but they decided not to interfere with the law.

Nothing more remained to be done except to prepare to meet their doom, and they appeared resigned to their fate until Brandt and Hummel were detected in an attempt to escape on the 6th of May, by breaking through their cell walls into the jail yard.

## WISE'S CONFISSION.

Henry F. Wise, in his complete confession, gives the following particulars of a conversation had with Brandt in the Millstone Mountain, which is about 200 yards east of Brandt's house, relative to speculative life insurance as a means of acquiring wealth. He writes as follows:

"This is the second time that Brandt tackled me. This was at the Millstone Mountain. He was cutting or ranking wood there. When he saw me coming up the road he called me to stop and have a rest. I sat down and he came up through his lot, and we sat there and talked as people do for some time, when he asked me, 'Well, Hen,



what do you think of what I told you here some time ago?" "Of what?" said I. "About the Insurance," he said. Said I, "I don't want to have anything to do with it: I haven't the money, and am too poor, and if that would be found out, Is., we would go where the dogs wouldn't bite us anymore for a while." When he said, "Oh, —, I have talked with — in reference to the insurance business, and he says if a man is insured and will be shot, only that the man himself don't do it, or the man that has him insured, that policy must be paid, and the company can't get out of it. And this man that is ruptured and troubled with cramp and giddiness, if he dies people only think he died of some disease, and he is an old man, and if we would bury him the people would speak well of us. Yet I could get others to go partner with me, but we had him for some years ago, about three or four years, and one of the fellows got drunk and talked too much, and then we left it drop. David Elliott found it out that there was something a-going and we dropped it then. Now, I don't want to have anything to do with the one of them in particular." I asked him who it was. "Well," said he, "I will tell you, but you daren't say nothing." I said I won't. "Why me and — had him in and — was going to put him in yet, but he got drunk and said something that it came before Elliott. Then me and — just dropped it, and that was the last of it. You may know that they can't do anything to us if we would do it. Why, there was — was at me already, who says, 's., you are in the mountains here and I will tell you what we will do, and we will get some one here to insure, and if you haven't got the money I will find that and we will put him in pretty good. I know Is., you wouldn't work him out of the way, but you can get some one here to do it for a couple of hundred dollars, and there will be no more of it. It is of no use to make a — fool of yourself and work in these mountains all your life and keep poor. But," says I. "I don't want any one so far away. There was a couple more at me at me already from Lebanon. They offered me the same chances as — did, but could take — before any of the rest." Brandt also mentioned their names, but I forgot them. Brandt also said, "Now, I didn't get that money from that man, but he promised to raise it for me most any time I need it." I asked, "Who is it that is going to lend you this money?" "It is a good friend of mine." I said, "It must be or you couldn't get that much money from him." "Oh, I could get a hundred dollars from him if I want it," said he. I asked him the second time who it is, when he said, "Why it's —, in Jonestown. Now, if you will join I will get it before long and I will give you and we will put him in for \$8,000 or \$9,000. I know an insurance agent in Lebanon, and he will put him in any company we want him in." I said, "Is., it would be right enough, but I don't want to be penned up or anybody to lose his life through me." "You don't need to be afraid of anything; you couldn't have need to talk with this man," he said. I asked him then, "Who is this man?" "Why, it is Joe Raber. I intend to put him out of the way." I then said, "I don't want to have anything to do with it, Is.: I intend to sell and go West." "That would be just the thing, then you would have plenty of money to buy a nice farm," he said. I said, "If it would be honest it would be right enough, but not so." "Look at it right once and see if you don't say it would be the best way for you, and then if you come out West you can start up on your own hook and don't need to be a fool for any man. When you have \$3,000 or \$4,000 in your pocket, and you would come out there in eight or ten years you would be worth \$30,000 to \$40,000, and wouldn't need to work like you are working here." I said, "Is., it would be right enough. There is another fellow has been at me this long time already and I wouldn't do it, and I don't want to be penned up." When he said again, "Now, Hen, you know if they could do anything to us, if it would be found out, such men as — and others of Lebanon [I forgot their names] wouldn't been at me to get a man and they go partner with me. But I don't like to do it with them. They are too far away, and I would sooner see a poor man make it than a rich man." I told him it would be right enough if it couldn't be found out, when he said, "Now, if you say so, you don't need to invest any money." I said, "No, I don't want to."

WISE TALKS TO ZECHMAN.—Me and Zechman was talking once about insurance, and one thing and another, some time in July, 1878. Zechman told me what he lost in the Marietta company. I told him what me and brother William had lost in the same company; he said if he knew a good subject he would try again; I said I didn't feel like it; there had been several chances offered me, but I didn't want them; he asked who it was. I told him that one wanted me to insure in partnership and that he would work her out of the way, and one wanted me to go partnership with him in one

that he could get worked out of the way for \$500, when he said, "Oh, is there such mean people in this valley that would kill a man for \$500?" I said yes; he laughed and said he didn't believe there was a man would do a thing like that for so small an amount. "But," says he, "up the valley there's fellows that don't care what they do." I said, "Yes, and not up the valley only, but other places there's people counted respectable men and would be the most willing." "Oh, no," he said; "Yes, George, that's true," I said; he said then nobody had said anything to him yet. I said, "Well, more than one to me already, and men you wouldn't believe to be so by their talking."

SECOND CONVERSATION.—I went back the road; can't say right any more whether I went as far as Zechman's or back to Adam Long, because me and Zechman were together very often; he farmed for me, so I can't remember whether I was at Long's or only at Zechman's. But out at the barn says Zechman, "Let us insure that man that man that you told me that some one was at you to go partner to work out of the way for \$500." I said, "No, George, there is one fellow that has been at me for over a year already. I don't want to have my life taken and don't want to take any one's."

"Well," said he, "we don't take his life." I said, "No, but we would help to be the cause of it, and I don't want to be sent to the penitentiary for years, may be." "Oh," says Zechman, "they can't do nothing to us, for if I tell you to kill a man the law can't say if you kill him that you had to do it." "Well," says I, "that's so, but I don't know how that would be if we would pay this man." "Why it's all the same," says he. Says I, "I wouldn't like to see a man be hung for me." "No," he said, "but you don't want to say anything to anybody about it, either, do you, if you would do it?" I said, "No, of course not." "Well, and he surely won't, and then you can pay your debts, as you are always wishing if you were only clear of debt, and have plenty left yet to go west, as you want to go anyhow, and you can't raise much if you pay your debts. What will you have left—a couple hundred dollars, and spend the half of that yet again you're out. See where you are then, and Guilliard is almost fit enough to plow, and the girls can help you anything." Says I, "That is so, George, if I would know that they couldn't do anything to us. But if it would come out and they could do something to us and pen us up then look at my wife and children, what would they make?" Says he, "Yes, but they can't. Don't you see we don't do it, and if I tell a man to kill a man the law won't take me but the man that killed him, and if you have only one thousand dollars left you are all right." "Well," said I, "have you money? I haven't got any now, but I will soon have \$100 or \$150." Said he, "Look at that, there is just your time now, and I will throw a note in the bank for \$25 and give my father for bail." Says I, "Will he do it?" Says he, "Yes." I said, "Are you sure?" "Yes," says he, "Now I will go to Ephraim Shuey's, and he is the agent for the U. B. Mutual Aid Society, of Lebanon, and put him in as high as I can, if you say so." So I concluded with him to do it. Said he, "And if I haven't got money enough then you loan me about \$20 yet." Said he, "It looks better if I have \$5,000 or \$6,000 and you not so much, being you want to go away, and the people all know that. People don't think at anything if I take \$5,000 or \$6,000, because I had my father and mother in for \$0.000." So he went to Shuey to put him in for \$5,000 in the U. B. Aid. Then Shuey looked. This continued several days and he said Shuey was over and he is in as high as he can be put in. Then I saw Brandt and he told me he would go to Lebanon to get an agent, and me and Zechman should come up Sunday. I told Zechman, who said, "all right, but let us go up along the mountain, so that no one sees us." I told him that me and Jess. Hummel is going up the valley, and I told Brandt we would come there. Zechman said, "well then, I don't want to go along." I said, "we are going up ten, twelve miles." "Well, all right, then I won't go, you can talk with him," he said.

THIRD CONVERSATION WITH BRANDT.—I was with my brother on the road home; Is. Brandt was there at John Tron's: about the middle or last part of July, '78; Brandt went along with me through the Gap, when he asked me, "Well, Hen., did you make up your mind yet about insurance?" I said, "Is, I don't like to have anything to do with it: I was talking with George Zechman about insurance, and he allowed if he knew a right good subject he would put him in, and I told him how several fellows was at me already and wanted me to go partner with them, and he was very anxious about it and wanted me to do it right or wrong and at last I promised him: he was up with Squire Shuey to put him in; he will find out this week yet; but I haven't the money myself just now; I will have money before long, but can't say just how soon." Brandt said then, "Well, that is all right, Henry, I can get it from old ———, and if he hasn't



the money just right away he will back me a note in the bank." I said, "Are you sure?" "Yes, me and him is too good friends. We put George Jennings in the Westerville for \$3,000 last week," he said. I said then, "Are you going to put him out of the way too?" Says he, "Yes, but we are going to have him live about a year or so, maybe a little longer and maybe not so long, that is just according as it goes." I said, "Is the same fellow going to work him out of the way that you have to work Raber out of the way?" Says he, "No, we have another one for him out here," but didn't say who it was to be. Then he asked, "Has Zechman money?" I said, "No, but he is going to throw a note in the bank." Says he, "All right, I will fix this now and get an agent here, he don't care what kind of a man he puts in, and Raber might die before we want him worked out of the way." I said, "I wish he would; if we had the policies once I would rather a hundred times see him die natural than so." "Well, you don't know but what he might, he is not a healthy man," said he.

**FIRST TALK WITH HUMMEL.**—On Sunday, going from Brandt's up the valley, we both had beer in us and been traveling together often, I says, "Jess, I will tell you something, if you will promise never to tell on me." He reached out his hand and swore he never would tell on me as long as he lived, let be what it will. I said, "Me and George Zechman and Brandt has something agoing here, but I don't know how it will turn out yet." Says he, "Can I have a chance in too?" I said, "If you want to." "All right," he says, "what is it?" "Won't you say if I tell you?" "Be — if I do," he said. "Why," says I, "Is Brandt has been at me since spring to insure Raber and I wouldn't; then me and George Zechman got a talking and he wouldn't no other way but do so." "Well all right I be in too, if we can only get this money now; if not, I can't till pay." I told him I would get money and I would give him \$10 I owe him. He asked in what companies we were going to put him. I said I won't have any but the Westerville, Ohio. "I have to go the mines, and if you are here you tell him to take a policy out for me and I'll fix it when I get the policy, or we can fix it with each other." said all right.

The night Brandt and Trout came and told me that Raber was drowned I was barefooted, and it seared me that I went in and shed tears and pulled on my boots without stockings, and had to roll my feet in a blanket in the buggy on account of the cold going to the place where Raber was lying.

**DREWS HAD A JOB TO PERFORM.**—Soon after the applications were taken out, Drews asked me once, "I understand that there is something here to be done—so Brandt told me." I said, "Yes, Is. said, but if it comes that far I will never pay you or no other man a dollar." "Yes," said he, "how will I get it then?" Said I, "I can lay down and sleep and when I sleep some one can come and take it out of my pocket, as much that I have put in." "Yes," says Charlie, "but then you would go, maybe, and get me arrested." I said, "How could I if I was sleeping, and some one would take my money out of my pocket? I couldn't say who it was."

**CONVERSATIONS IN JAIL.**—He then mentions conversations they had together in jail, in which it was agreed that, when they got out, the money was to be divided at Zechman's house, where they could pull down the blinds. They were afraid to go up, for fear they would be killed and robbed of their share of the money. Wise said, "yes, if we have it once," and Hummel laughed, and said there is where it comes in! One of them had also arranged to shoot Brandt, Drews and Stichler, and make it appear that they had been taken for burglars attempting to enter one of their houses.

He continues: "Soon after the applications were taken out, the talk was that Raber was too old to insure, so I was to go and look about his age. Zechman said he hadn't time and Jess. is too dumb to send any place, and I should make my charge for it; so I went. Hummel fetched the horse and sulky to my house early one morning and I went to Straoustown in the Blue Mountain church to see about Raber's age, but it was not to be found."

He then mentions how Zechman offered to pay him for his trouble in going to tell Raber to go to 'Squire Shuey's to assign the Reading policy.

**WHAT HUMMEL SAID BEFORE HE WAS ARRESTED.**—After the death of Raber, me and Hummel was talking of this matter. Said I to Hummel, "My hands shall be clear from such a thing like this; I will never be coaxed into a thing I like this no more." He laughed at me, and said, "Wouldn't you go partner no more?" I said, "No never," and asked him if he had intended to. He said, "Yes, Brandt wants me to go partner with him to put George Jennings in yet for \$6,000 or \$7,000." I aske

him, "Will you do it?" He said, "Yes." Said I, "Have you hired one already to work him out of the way?" He said, "Yes." I asked him who it was; said I, "John —?" He said, "Yes." Says I, "Is that so?" Then he said, "Brandt don't want to have anything to do with you any more. He says you are too much afraid." "Yes," said I, "he never will have." I asked him, "Are you going to stop it then? This thing can not keep out this way." He said, "Yes, the insurance; but then, as soon as I will get my money, me and ——— and an old Dutch fellow that is traveling around there, and wants to make his home to ———, he has a big fortune come to him from Germany, and me and ——— is gone along to fetch it." I asked him, "Are you also going to take that from him?" Says Jess. Hummel, "We will take him along back and then come home on the Dauphin Road. Nobody knows him, and then we will step off at Rattling Run or so and leave him on the mountain, then I go west. That is the last will be heard of Hummel."

SEARCHING THE RECORDS.—I had business in Lebanon a day or two after I agreed to Zechman to insure Raber to get him worked out of the way. Zechman said I should go in the U. B. office and see if Raber is in or not. I didn't want to, but he said, "Yes, I should, that this was nothing; I could say I should look for another man." So I went there and they were all gone, but one was sweeping out. I asked him about the officers. He told me where to go. I seen the man. He said he didn't think he was insured, but he would see and send me a letter, but forgot it. Then I came over in a few days after, but not in the same week, and Hummel and Zechman got at me to look. Hummel wanted me to look in the Home office and Zechman in the U. B. I refused, but they insisted on it, being we was partners and me going over there anyhow, so I did look and he was not insured in any. Then I got my fortune told.

The woman who told him his fortune said he drew luckier cards than any of her customers, that he would get money, and if he got in trouble he would get through it safely. This encouraged him very much.

## EXECUTION OF WISE, BRANDT AND HUMMEL.

On Thursday, May 13, the curtain was rung down on the last act in one of the most celebrated cases ever presented in the repertoire of the drama of real life. Brandt, Hummel and Wise then expiated the murder of old Joe Raber, by dying ignominiously on the gallows. Early in the morning there was every indication that Lebanon would be crowded with people, notwithstanding the public notice that only a limited number of persons could be admitted to witness the execution. They were here from every section of this and adjoining counties, which, while it could not have been much of a gratification to them, served to show the wide-spread interest felt in this, one of the most peculiar of all executions. The hour appointed for the final scene was generally known, so that shortly after 10 o'clock Eighth street in the neighborhood of the jail was crowded with a mass of men, women, and children, all eager to get within the walls of the jail, if possible, and in any event to secure the best points of advantage. The pressure brought to bear upon the sheriff and his deputies for permission to enter was immense, notwithstanding the fact that the law governing such cases was to be complied with as closely as possible. Had this resolution not been taken by Sheriff Crall, it is very evident that the crowd would have been so great inside as to seriously interfere with that prompt and careful performance of duty so desirable on such occasions. As it was, there may have been about 50 persons inside, the newspaper representatives from home and abroad helping very much to swell the number.

DECENTLY AND IN ORDER.—The number of prisoners has been reduced to seven and they seem to be wonderfully impressed with the gravity of the situation for they maintained the utmost silence and acted in a manner altogether different from the spirit that prevailed among them at the time of the other executions. And then, again, owing to the small number of spectators admitted, there was not that hurry and confusion incident to a moving mass of excited individuals. This state of affairs was generally



commented upon and always favorably to those having it in charge, and will go far, doubtless, toward even a more rigid enforcement of lawful regulations at other places. In the opinion of those present, who had witnessed many other executions, this was pronounced the best regulated of them all.

This case was attended with the usual preliminaries on such occasions. One of the first movements on the part of the prisoners was to take a last farewell. About 8 o'clock Brandt went to Wise's cell to give good-by and at the same time say that he forgave him all that Wise had ever done against him. Wise extended his hand and did likewise. Immediately afterwards Hummel followed suit, and after his interview with Wise ended, Wise manifested a disposition to argue with him, but the watchman interfered. They did this at the request of Rev. Trabert, who, however, was not present at the time of the farewell interview.

Brandt said to a reporter that Wise had gone over the same old story so often that he at last had made himself believe firmly that all he said was true. This was his opinion of Wise, and the way he reconciled his own protestations of innocence with Wise's positive statements. After he had sent for his counsel, Col. Gobin, and Rev. Trabert, and had been closeted with them, he neither denied nor admitted his guilt, his invariable answer being, "I have nothing to say."

Hummel, in answer to a question as to whether he had made a confession to his spiritual adviser, replied that we should ask him nothing, for if he had anything to say he would say it without being asked. On this point Rev. Trabert would not commit himself, but rather intimated that he had a partial confession.

Rev. Hay, Wise's spiritual adviser, remained with him until about 10 o'clock, after which Wise continued his devotions until 11 o'clock, when he retired and slept well about 4 o'clock. Brandt and Hummel were occupied in their devotions until about 12 o'clock, Rev. Trabert remaining with Hummel about an hour longer than with Brandt. They were together in one cell, and very earnest in all they did, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper having been administered. They expressed a desire to their spiritual adviser to be permitted to pass the night together, but when told that the rules would not permit it, gracefully submitted. Hummel read his Bible, prayed, and then went to sleep, being woke up at about 6 o'clock by the watchman. Brandt woke up several times, passing a very restless night, and after little sleep arose about 4 o'clock.

The sheriff selected the following jury: John L. Saylor, Ephraim Yingst, Samuel Imboden, C. P. Deininger, Edward Shuey, Valentine Ulrich, Jacob Beam, J. L. Meyer, D. B. Leslie, D. T. Warner, P. M. Woomer, E. M. Boltz. The following acted as deputies: Martin H. Bowman, Eugene A. Crall, ex-sheriff Deininger, ex-sheriff Matthews, Wm. Miller, Fred Yake.

The gallows was the one used for Drews and Stichler. It was erected about 7 a. m. at the south wall. None of them made any remarks when they heard the noise occasioned by the workmen, but Brandt was noticed to turn pale and tremble.

The condemned men were dressed in new suits made by Mr. John Lingle, of Lebanon. Hummel and Wise had the same kind of clothing, Brandt's being slightly different in color. All three had neat little bouquets of flowers pinned on the lapels of their coats, presented by Miss Agnes Hartman, of Lebanon.

At 9:30 Deputies Bowman and Matthews visited the cells and took their measures so as to adjust the ropes satisfactorily. Hummel measured 5 feet 3½ inches from the neck, and Wise and Brandt each 5 feet 1½ inches.

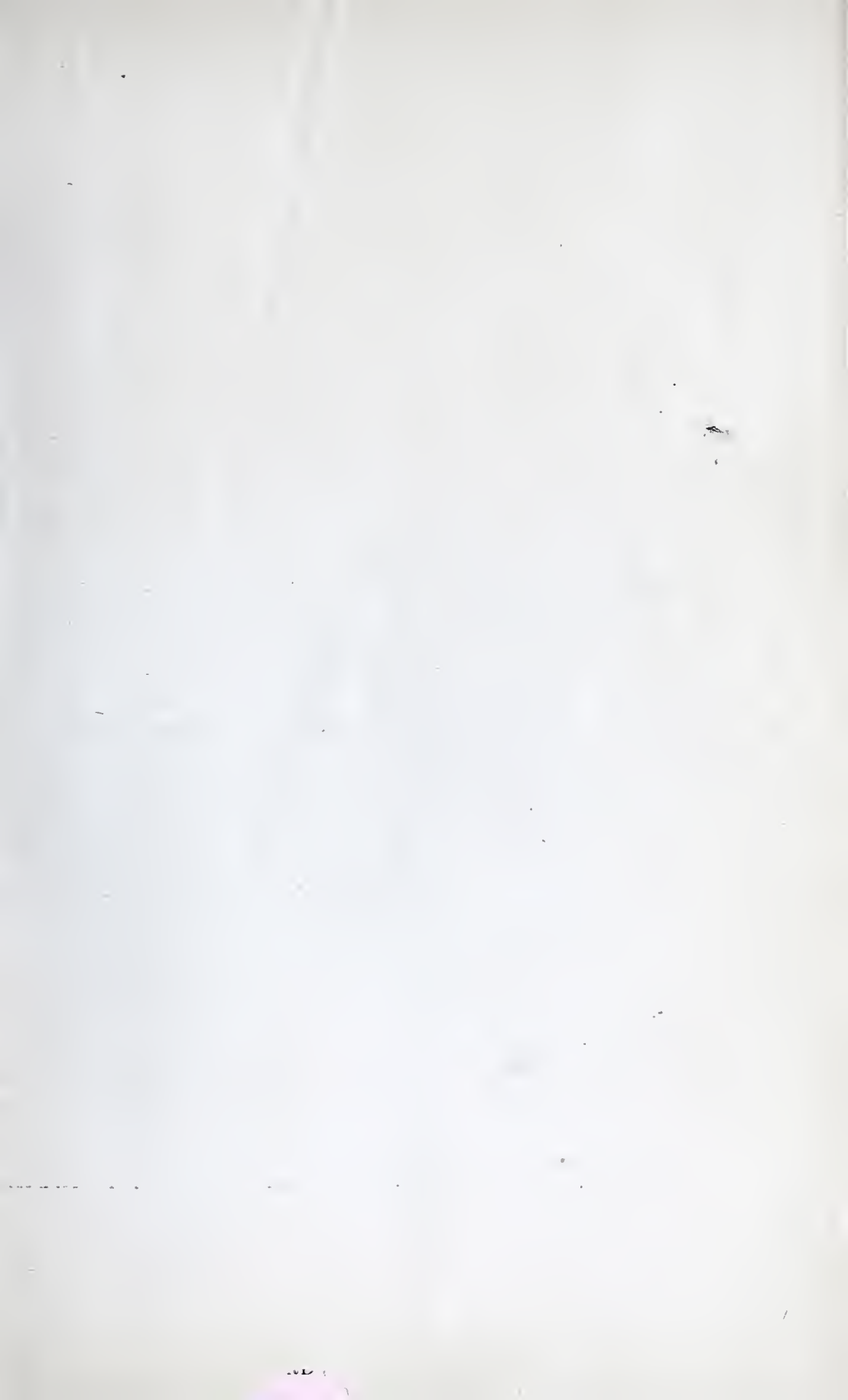
Religious services were continued without much interruption all morning, at one time Brandt and Hummel being alone for a short time in the latter's cell, with Rev. Trabert. Shortly after 10 o'clock Col. Gobin, their counsel, was sent for and he found them in the cell. This was followed by a coming and going on his part, which gave rise to rumors of confessions, but public expectation in this respect was not gratified. Col. Gobin was present in the jail at the special request of Brandt, which as it became known, further excited expectations of a confession.

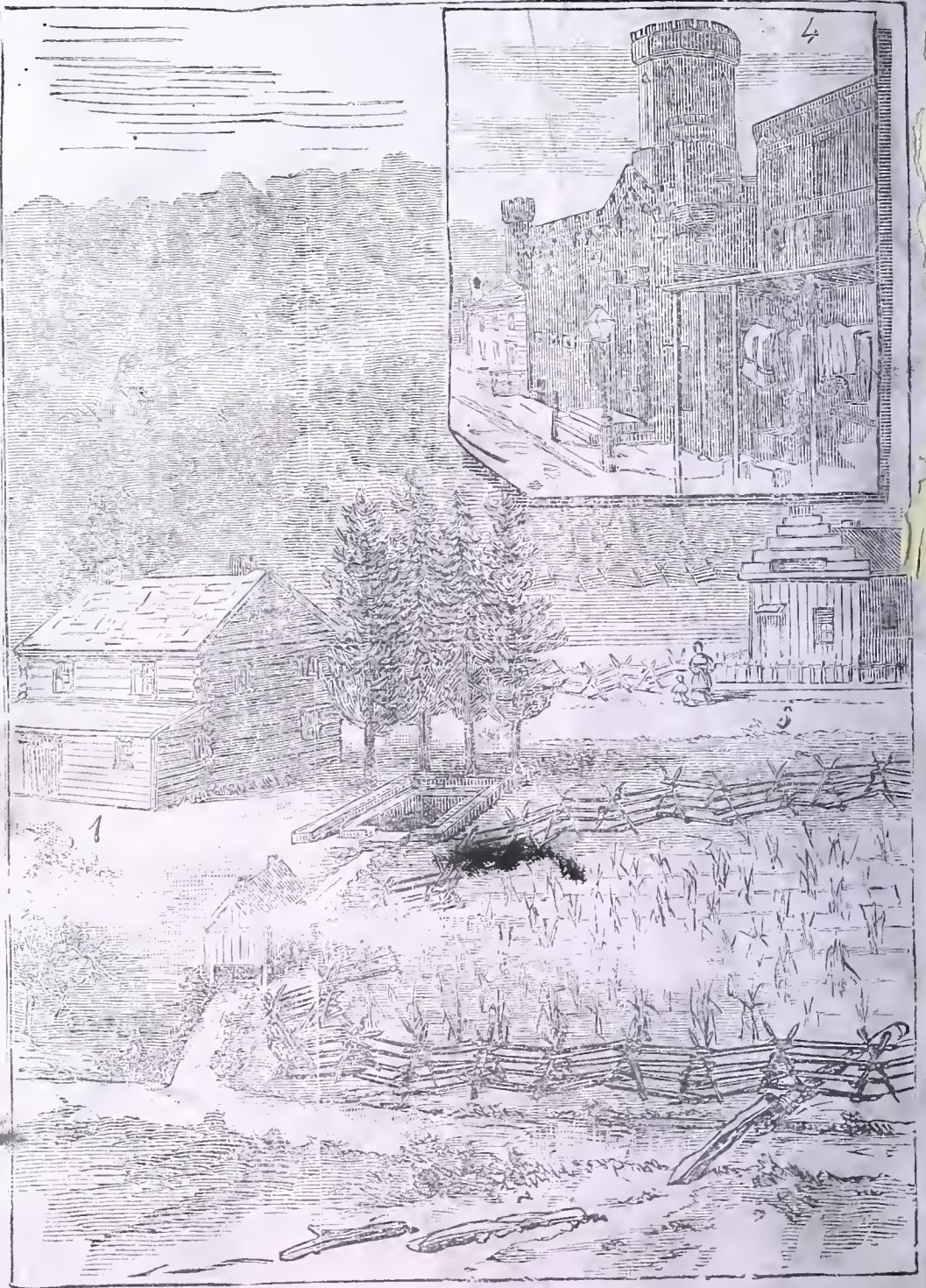
At 10:30 Wise, accompanied by the day watchman, passed to the first floor and in two cells gave a last good-bye to all the prisoners confined for crimes of a minor grade. Their leave-taking was not accompanied by another unusual to such events. Brandt and Hummel neglected to attend to this duty. It now became evident that the most

serious business of the day was to be transacted, when at 10:40 Sheriff Crall notified Wise that all was ready for his execution. A short consultation followed in his cell, as to what he intended to do, it having been understood that Wise wanted an opportunity to make a few remarks on the gallows, and in order to save Brandt and Hummel's feelings they were to remain in their cells until he had finished. At the gallows Wise ascended to the platform first, running up the steps nimbly, followed by Rev. Hay and the sheriff. Wise then addressed the crowd as follows, in German: "What I have to say is that all are guilty, as I testified and confessed. I said all about it; who the first man was that spoke to me about insurance, and how Hummel got in. That is all I have to say." He spoke in a calm, deliberate manner throughout. Rev. Hay then read a German hymn, the crowd singing as he read it off, Wise heartily joining his voice with theirs. He stood with his hands folded behind him, occasionally directing his gaze heavenward. After the singing, Rev. Light read in German the first six verses of the 32d Psalm. This was followed by separate prayers by Rev. Hay and by Wise, both kneeling and joining their voices in earnest petitions to the Throne of Grace on high, sounds of praise coming faintly at the same time from the interior of the jail, where Brandt and Hummel were engaged in their devotions. Another hymn was announced and sang, during which the sheriff went back to jail for the other two condemned men. They marched into the yard, with Rev. Trabert and Brandt following the sheriff and next to them Rev. Shantz and Hummel. As they marched along the ministers read from the Lutheran Book of Prayer, until the steps of gallows were reached, when they ascended together, and stood with Wise to the east, and Hummel between him and Brandt. They all knelt, when Rev. Shantz fervently read a prayer, Brandt and Hummel silently praying on their own account, while Wise, as the spirit moved him, allowed his voice at times to almost drown that of Shantz. During this scene Brandt was slightly in the background, and kept his head lowered all the time, never looking up, while the others had their faces upward all the time. When they arose from their knees Brandt's eyes appeared ready to overflow with tears, but otherwise he displayed more nerve than Hummel, who for a short time looked very much as though ready to faint away. Wise took everything very cool. A last farewell was then given to the three by those officiating, and as Dr. Lineaweaver, prison physician, extended his hand Wise kissed him on the left cheek. The sheriff asked Brandt and Hummel whether they had anything to say, and they replied nothing. As Harvey Deininger, the ex-sheriff's son, bade Hummel and Wise good-bye they both kissed him. Then followed more farewells, after which straps were buckled around the arms and legs of the three. The rope and white cap were first placed upon Wise, by the sheriff, then upon Hummel, and next Brandt. The latter's lips moved rapidly in prayer as the white cap shut out the light of day forever. At 11:17 o'clock Sheriff Crall stepped to the ground, and, turning, struck the fatal spring a blow with his hand, when the trap fell and three souls were launched into eternity. The operation was performed very smoothly, to the great credit of those in charge, and there was not the slightest tremor or muscular contortion to mark the agony of death. The ropes all slipped around to the back of the neck and the physicians concluded that all died of strangulation. Wise was pronounced dead at 11:25, Brandt at 11:28, and Hummel at 11:29.

The coffins were ready for Wise and Brandt, but there was only an ice-box for Hummel. Wise's coffin was provided by the Directors of the Poor, while Brandt's was a plain walnut one, provided by his father. The bodies of Wise and Hummel were sent by rail to their families, and Brandt's to his father's house in Independent District.







1.—Brandt's Tavern, with Raber's hut on the mountain in the background. 2.—Plank from which the victim was thrown into the creek and drowned by Stichler. 3.—Drews' house. 4.—Lebanon Jail.